

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

INVITED COMMITTEES:

COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS

**HEARING OF GLENN MICALLEF**

COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE

(Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport)

MONDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2024

BRUSSELS



1-0002-0000

**IN THE CHAIR: NELA RIEHL**  
*Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education*

1-0003-0000

*(The hearing opened at 14:30)*

1-0004-0000

**Nela Riehl**, *Chair of the CULT Committee*. – Good afternoon, before starting our meeting today, I would like to express our solidarity with Spain. Our thoughts and hearts go out to all those affected by the devastating floods in Valencia, Albacete and beyond caused by the DANA storm. We stand in solidarity with the families who lost loved ones, those who have seen their homes and communities impacted, and all the rescue teams working tirelessly to provide support and relief. Please know that you are not alone: Europe stands with you.

Before we go on, I would like to inform you that today, for the sake of time management, I will be speaking in English, which will allow me to have a faster and clearer communication with our guest and with the Members present today.

Now let me welcome the Commissioner-designate, Mr Micallef, who is being entrusted by the President of the European Commission with the role of Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport. I would also like to welcome the members of the Committee on Culture and Education, the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, the Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, and the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs. In addition, I would like to welcome the Commission and Council colleagues who are also here today and those following us online, as this confirmation hearing is being streamed live and a video recording will be available afterwards on the EP website.

In line with the EP rules for the approval of the European Commission, let me recall that after the confirmation hearing, the coordinators of the Committee on Culture and Education will need to evaluate the Commissioner-designate and state clearly whether he is qualified both to be a Member of the College and to carry out the particular duties he has been assigned. Before today's hearing, Mr Micallef has replied in writing to a preparatory questionnaire. The written answers have been distributed to members and are available online in all languages. The Committee on Legal Affairs assessed, on the basis of the documents presented, the question of potential or actual conflict of interests, and has raised no objection to the holding of this confirmation hearing.

Now let me recall the structure of the confirmation hearing. The Commissioner-designate is invited to make an opening oral statement for no longer than 15 minutes. At the end of the meeting he will also have five minutes for a closing statement. After the introduction of Mr Micallef, we will turn to the questions from our members. The confirmation hearing will be structured in four rounds: a first round of political group coordinators with five-minute slots each, one minute for the question and two minutes for the answer of the candidate Commissioner with a possibility of a follow-up question from the same member no longer than one minute and one minute for the reply. Then a second round of questions with three-minute slots each, based on the overall distribution of speaking time among the political groups, including a representative from the non-attached Members. Then a third round of questions by the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the invited committees with three-minute slots each, and then a final round of questions by the political groups in reverse order, also with three-minute slots

each. Please note that all slots of three minutes will be divided into one minute for a question and two minutes for the answer from the Commissioner-designate. At the end, I will conclude the confirmation hearing.

Interpretation today will be provided in 23 languages. All speakers can therefore use their own language. Speakers are to be reminded that what they say will need to be interpreted, so please keep in mind that you speak not too quickly.

I would like to make it clear that I will need to be very, very strict with the time because if we run late, some members will not be able to take the floor. Therefore if you exceed the time that has been allocated to you, I will need to use the hammer and, as a last resort, I will also mute you, which is not a very pleasant thing to do.

Before I give the floor to Mr Micallef, I would like to say that the next five years will be of strategic importance for the European Union project. From our perspective, in addition to supporting culture and the cultural aspects of the European Union, sport, youth engagement and active citizenship will be key to addressing challenges related to the lack of young people's participation in democratic processes, as well as preventing youth polarisation and also political dissolution. Linked to the future work on these policy areas, I acknowledge your responses to the horizontal written questions and your readiness to cooperate with the European Parliament. This is particularly important in the context of the revision of the framework agreement between Parliament and the Commission, in particular regarding your engagement to be regularly present in the Committee on Culture and Education and in plenary debates on the topics of your portfolio.

The follow-up of Parliament's legislative initiatives and the sharing of information in a timely manner with the Parliament, as a co-legislator and arm of the budgetary authority, will be key. We count on the full implementation of these commitments and emphasise the Commission's role as an honest broker in all legislative procedures and institutional negotiations, ensuring equal treatment of Parliament and the Council. I equally count on your full cooperation to also inform the Committee on Culture and Education in advance of all upcoming proposals, including those ones related to the EU programmes under your portfolio, and provide us with detailed justifications for those requiring urgent actions. This will ensure transparency and allow Parliament to exercise its prerogatives properly. I am sure that our exchanges will be very fruitful today.

Dear Mr Micallef, you now have the floor for 15 minutes.

1-0005-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you, honourable Chair.

Honourable Members,

It was here at this very institution where I had the privilege of beginning my European journey as an intern.

It may be a twist of fate – but it is, most of all, an honour and a privilege – to be here before you, seeking your approval as a member of the European Commission responsible for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport.

My personal commitment embodies this portfolio. As I wrote in my replies to your questions, I engaged in participatory democracy from a very young age. I have played an active role in youth, sport and cultural organisations at the local, national and international levels.

Honourable Members,

Diversity, fairness and solidarity, these have always been the cornerstones of the European project. These values are enshrined in our Treaties. If confirmed, these European values will play a vital role in my work as European Commissioner.

We stand with the brave people of Ukraine, the brave people of Ukraine, who are defending not only their land, but also our common values. We will continue to support Ukraine for as long as it takes. And I will assess where we can strengthen our collaboration, within the scope of my portfolio, with Ukraine and with other candidate countries.

I clearly remember the optimism and the excitement when Malta joined the European Union 20 years ago. I was there at the celebrations at the grand harbour. I was one of those young people whose life was transformed by EU membership. I had the opportunity to live the European dream. Yes, enlargement is a merit-based process. Yet I firmly believe we have a collective responsibility to work hard together so that many more people can live their own European dream.

I'm honoured to be nominated the first ever European Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness. Intergenerational fairness is one of the most important societal challenges we have today. We must not leave any generation behind, but we also need to take into account the needs of future generations in all actions that we take.

Honourable Members, we have a collective responsibility to ensure holistic and long-term responses. If confirmed, I will put forward the first ever strategy on intergenerational fairness. I will cooperate with all Members of this Parliament and of this committee, as well as of College, to ensure that the voices of all generations are listened to and that their views are acted upon.

And I will ensure that all the possible tools offered by foresight will be used to promote intergenerational fairness. If confirmed, I will also integrate an intergenerational fairness dimension in all areas under my responsibility, starting with the youth.

Young people are underrepresented in politics and they are less likely to vote. This can lead to policies that disregard their interests and concerns. This is why it is essential – it's essential – to engage youth to ensure fair political participation and representation. This is essential for the youth, but it is also essential for our democracy.

Democracy is a value upon which our Union is founded and our democracy is under threat. We can only protect our democracy with the youth on board. Without the youth, the future of the European project already lies in the past. That is also why young people must be enabled to have their say on the future. As one of you told me, we must make politics with young people, not for young people.

As Commissioner for youth, I understand my role as next generation's advocate in the European Commission. If confirmed, I will work tirelessly to give them a seat around the table and to include them in all the decisions that affect their future. To this end, I will also support the members of the future College in organising youth policy dialogues. This will send a strong signal to youth that their interests are at the core of our work.

Alongside this, I will assist the President in setting up the Youth Advisory body. In this work, I will pledge to ensure the representation of youth across the EU's Member States and communities. Building on the legacy of the European Year of Youth and of the Conference on the Future of Europe, these actions will be complemented by the 'youth check'. I intend to use this as a key tool to empower young people, enabling them to drive change and shape the future.

Intergenerational fairness and solidarity start with the youngest members of our society – children. Children bear no responsibilities in shaping the world that they inherit. They only have rights. The right to safety, the right to education, and the right to a future filled with hope and opportunity. It is our collective duty to combat child poverty with all the tools at our disposal. Implementing the EU's Strategy on the Rights of the Child is a responsibility that I take with utmost seriousness. I am going to work to make it a reality across all the corners of our Union. No child, I repeat, no child must be left behind.

One of our greatest challenges is protecting the mental health of our children and our young people, especially online. If confirmed, I will lead the work on an action plan against cyberbullying. Working closely with other members of the College to embrace issues including education, digitalisation, security and combating hate speech, as well as ensuring equality and health.

Honourable Members,

Solidarity also means uniting our creativity and our political will to tackle shared challenges. I am convinced by the power of culture – with its rich, diverse tapestry – and sport to unite and connect, but also to inspire people. Art, music and cinema bring joy to Europeans and encourage reflection and interaction across geographic and linguistic borders.

One of you told me some days ago, culture and cultural heritage are the cement that shape and foster our common European sense of belonging. I remember when Valletta was inaugurated as the European Capital of Culture a few years back. I want to continue to show Europeans that EU support helps to showcase culture, foster sustainable urban development and promote European identity.

Culture and the creative sector also have a huge potential for our economy. Yet much of this potential seems to be currently going untapped. We need a more strategic approach to the Commission's work in this field. If confirmed, I will deliver a new strategic framework, a culture compass that will harness and connect culture's multiple dimensions with the Commission's broader political priorities.

From my meetings with you, I know that you have excellent ideas of what should be included in the Culture Compass. If confirmed, I will work very closely with you to deliver a holistic strategy, a strategic framework that will be a game changer in the sector. This is essential to tackle common challenges such as protecting Europe's diverse cultural heritage from climate change, creating real value added through culture in our regions and ensuring that culture benefits from new digital technologies like AI.

AI brings unique opportunities, offering tools to complement artists skills and unlock new forms of expression. It can help to reach wider audiences and boost innovation. But we also know about the challenges and the risks related to AI. Change can be difficult to embrace. Still, by harnessing its potential and mitigating the risks, we can empower artists and strengthen Europe's cultural leadership in the digital age. If confirmed, I will formulate an AI strategy for the cultural and creative industries, together with the Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy. These initiatives will form part of my broader efforts to build on the work of the current

Commission and the Parliament to improve the working conditions of Europe's artists and cultural professionals.

It was so beautiful to see the European flag fly at the Paris Olympics last summer. It filled us with a sense of pride. It was a reminder of the power of sport to bring people together, to foster cohesion in our society.

As a former Vice-President and a former player of a local football club, I have first hand experience of the importance of solid governance, fairness and integrity, but also of the financial solidarity and support that's needed at the grassroots level. I will dedicate all my energy to preserve and promote our European sport model and the shared values of fairness, tolerance and equality that it embodies.

The European sport model is fundamental to promote our common values, within and beyond our Union. If confirmed, I will use the full power of sport and cultural diplomacy to promote peace and foster people-to-people dialogue. But my efforts will not stop there. Sport is essential to tackling the epidemic of inactivity and obesity in Europe, and to reducing the risk of non-communicable diseases and mental health problems. Yet up to 45 % of Europeans never exercise. 45 % of Europeans never do sport. To increase Europeans participation in sport, I would propose a review of the Council Recommendation on Health-enhancing Physical Activity. I will support the Member States in encouraging Europeans to move and to enjoy sport's benefits for their physical and mental health.

Before I turn to your questions, let me say a few words about EU funds and programmes. Erasmus+, including DiscoverEU, Creative Europe and the European Solidarity Corps not only support our policymaking but also empower millions of people, regardless of their age, to gain new experiences and strengthen their skills. This enables them to engage in communities and actively contribute to shaping our future in the Union.

We all know that in a few months, we will need to discuss the future of these funds and programmes. Together with you, honourable Members and my colleagues in College, I will be focusing on identifying what should be financed and subsequently how best to finance it. We have to ensure that EU funding has a real impact on the ground, and is simple enough to allow all beneficiaries to gain from it.

Honourable Members, I am eager to work with you to strengthen our Union. Together, we can bring tangible benefits to Europe's people and its regions.

Together, we have what it takes to tackle the challenges that lie ahead of us.

And together, honourable Members, we can reinforce our shared values. The values that we hold dear. Values on which this European house is built: diversity. fairness, solidarity and democracy.

I ask for your trust to allow me to take forward the Commission's work on intergenerational fairness, youth, culture and sport. To realise our shared vision together. I now look forward to your questions. Thank you.

1-0006-0000

**Zoltán Tarr (PPE).** – Thank you very much. Welcome, Mr Micallef, to the hearing, on behalf of the EPP colleagues.

I have two questions. One is a broader one. The second one is more concrete.

The first one: recognising the challenges posed by rising nationalism and populism, what proactive steps do you envision taking to promote the values of cultural diversity and solidarity across the European Community?

And the second question is, since youth will be a large part of your portfolio, we would like to know how you will make sure that the new bodies announced in your mission letter, including the youth dialogues, the Youth Stakeholder Group and the Youth Advisory Board, will have a real impact on youth policymaking?

1-0007-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – A union that has active youth is a union that is fit for the future.

We need to concretely give youths greater freedom and greater responsibilities in our societies and democracy, and through the implementation of the Youth Check in particular, we will gather the views of young people and factor them in our decision-making.

We will do this systematically, thereby having a youth perspective in the design and preparation of all our legislation. And we will complement this, I will complement this, with the youth dialogues, through which we will also gather the views of young people, and the President's youth advisory body. These will all be concrete measures.

And if I can elaborate a bit on the Youth Check, as from next year, all the proposals and all the initiatives that will be in the first annex of the Commission work programme will be assessed for their impact on youth. If a proposal is deemed to be relevant, then we will have youth-specific impact assessments that will practically show us where we need to focus our attention, and we will also consider having specific consultations should the need arise.

In terms of culture, we will have a culture compass that will be a game changer for the sector, that will guide and harness the multiple dimensions of culture in EU policy-making for the next mandate and beyond.

1-0008-0000

**Zoltán Tarr (PPE)**. – How do you envisage your work with the other Commissioners relevant to the youth portfolio? As we all know, this new Commission is really required to work together, and your portfolio is really connected to Vice-President-designate Mînzatu in charge of Erasmus+ and education. What possible synergies do you see between your portfolios?

1-0009-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – I believe that all policy areas are interlinked. There is not one that is independent from the other.

In the next Commission, it will be imperative that we collaborate and we coordinate all our efforts.

When it comes to youth, for example, I will need to work very closely with the designate-Vice-President responsible for people and skills on the Erasmus programme: she will be handling the broader parts of the programme as well as the formal education parts, and I will be responsible for the informal and non-formal learning components, the youth and sports components.



But this extends also to other members of the Commission: I will need to work closely with colleagues on issues like health, for example. We know that mental health is a challenge that is particularly present in our youth, and so it's going to be absolutely imperative in the next mandate that we work as one Commission, as one team, with this committee, with the Parliament and with the Member States as Team Europe.

1-0010-0000

**Hannes Heide (S&D).** – Herr designierter Kommissar! Das Europäische Parlament hat in der abgelaufenen Legislaturperiode einen ganz wichtigen Initiativbericht über einen EU-Rahmen für die soziale und berufliche Situation von Künstlerinnen und Künstlern sowie Arbeitnehmern im Kultur- und Kreativsektor beschlossen. Und dieser Rahmen soll gemeinsame Standards für die Arbeitsbedingungen von Kulturschaffenden in ganz Europa festlegen und die jüngere Generation von Kulturschaffenden bestmöglich in den Arbeitsmarkt integrieren.

Meine Frage daher: Wie beabsichtigen Sie, diesen INI-Bericht umzusetzen? Welche Rechtsvorschriften gedenken Sie vorzuschlagen, und sehen Sie einen konkreten Fahrplan für die Umsetzung? Und wie gedenken Sie, sich mit der designierten Vizepräsidentin Mînzatu abzustimmen?

1-0011-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – I believe that artists should be able to focus on being creative, on their job, and should not have to worry about earning a decent living. I know that the sector has been facing a great many challenges, starting with atypical working conditions, seasonality, but also poor working conditions that affect the sector's ability to attract and retain talent, but also affect the sector's competitiveness.

Before we go any further, we have to understand that this is a sector that is significant for our Union. There are 7.7 million people working in this sector; 46% of them report that they face poor working conditions, and 68% of them have to work two jobs to make ends meet. They have to work two jobs to be able to cover their expenses.

I am very much aware of the resolution in Parliament and the initiatives taken by Parliament. And this is a priority on which there has been already a process that started consultations in Member States, so we understand the situation and assess the situation a bit better. In the first months of my mandate as Commissioner, based on these consultations, I will organise a high-level round table, bringing together social partners, stakeholders, industry, as well as Members of this Parliament, of this committee, to assess the remaining legislative gaps, to better support our exchange and then to chart our future, our initiatives, our action in the future together. We will also organise annual thematic workshops with Member States to keep the topic high on the political agenda. And before we have our assessment, we cannot exclude the need either for policy or legislative action.

1-0012-0000

**Hannes Heide (S&D).** – Dieser Initiativbericht enthält ein wichtiges Instrument für eine effiziente Umsetzung – die soziale Konditionalität. Das heißt: EU-finanzierte Projekte im Kultur- und Kreativsektor wie in *Creative Europe* müssen eine Reihe von Grundsätzen für faire Arbeitsbedingungen und Praktiken für die Zusammenarbeit einhalten.

Wie wollen Sie sicherstellen, dass die Europäische Kommission diese Grundsätze in der nächsten Förderperiode der Programme, die den Kultur- und Kreativsektor betreffen, auch einbezieht?

1-0013-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – The first priority in the first months of the mandate will be to organise this high-level roundtable, where we will assess the regulatory gaps that require further framework.

As I was mentioning in my earlier answer, we will complement that with an annual thematic conference with Member States where we will keep the topic high on the agenda, but we will also consider reinforcing the social conditionalities in the next cycle of Union programmes, which will enable more assistance, more investments, to improve the working conditions of artists in the European Union.

This is a priority when it comes to our work in the cultural sector. We have to see how Union financing in the next mandate can be more strategic and more impactful, to improve the working conditions of artists and to boost the competitiveness of our cultural and creative sector industries.

1-0014-0000

**Catherine Griset (PFE)**. – (*début de l'intervention hors micro*) ... avez parlé, au début de votre intervention, mais je voudrais m'assurer que vous allez respecter – si bien entendu vous êtes confirmé au poste de commissaire – toutes les composantes de ce Parlement, sans suivre de cordon anti-démocratique. Ce sera ma première question.

Ce point étant posé, ma seconde question portera sur l'arrêt Recorded Artists Actors Performers du 8 septembre 2020. Par cet arrêt, la Cour de justice de l'Union européenne contraint les États membres à verser des droits de diffusion aux musiciens et aux compositeurs des pays tiers, sans cependant conditionner cette rémunération à une réciprocité de la part de ces États, notamment des États-Unis. Nous leur verserons donc des droits sans que nos artistes en perçoivent en retour. Les enjeux, évidemment, sont importants, car ces droits sont actuellement reversés en Europe pour financer, par exemple, des festivals ou d'autres manifestations culturelles. En outre, cette jurisprudence risque d'être étendue ultérieurement aux créations musicales faites grâce à l'intelligence artificielle sur la base d'enregistrements émanant parfois de pays tiers également...

*(La Présidente retire la parole à l'oratrice)*

1-0015-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – I believe in dialogue. I believe in communication. But at the same time, in the same vein, we are a Union that is guided by values. Values that are in our Treaties, values that are the compass to our action, and that we have championed and mainstreamed across all our legislation and our policies.

As a Commission, and as Commissioner, I will ensure that we speak up and we stand up to protect our values and that we do so using all the tools and all the means at our disposal.

When it comes to copyright and initiatives that protect our cultural sector, in this respect, I am very much aware of the initiative that was brought forward in Parliament in the previous mandate to protect copyrights of live music events, and this is very much a priority.

As you know, we have a recommendation as a result of that initiative, through which we will assess the effectiveness of the tools that we have at our disposal. And if need be, there will be follow-up actions, and actions that that will support this in this mandate as well.

1-0016-0000

**Catherine Griset (PFE).** – Merci, Monsieur le Commissaire, pour votre réponse. Ce sujet est en effet important pour le financement de notre secteur culturel, et c'est aussi une question de justice, car, sans cette réciprocité, nous serions dans la position de subventionner le secteur culturel des pays tiers. Il est d'ailleurs étonnant que la Cour de justice de l'Union européenne nous ait laissé un tel problème sur les bras sans proposer d'autre solution. Je voudrais donc vous demander quel serait le délai dans lequel vous pourriez agir et faire une proposition.

Autre question importante: pensez-vous pouvoir recueillir l'assentiment rapide des États membres sur ce sujet?

1-0017-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – I believe we have to be more strategic, more impactful and more ambitious when it comes to culture.

I will lead the work on a culture compass that will focus on three strands. First, protecting our culture and cultural heritage. Secondly, better cohesion of our regions. And third, and a very important point, is to boost the competitiveness and innovation in the culture sector.

Right now, we have actions in our cultural sphere that are fragmented across a number of policy areas – culture features now in 20 policy areas and 20 funding instruments – so one way that we will make sure that we are more effective in boosting that competitiveness is through coordinated action, a vision, a strategy, with means, with objectives and with monitoring tools, so that we can ensure that our sector is properly managed to deliver on our common objectives.

1-0018-0000

**Lara Magoni (ECR).** – Signora Presidente, gentile candidato Commissario, in un tempo in cui l'Europa è minacciata su molti fronti, noi riteniamo che la sua unità non possa che passare dalla valorizzazione della nostra storia, identità e cultura comune.

Per questo vorrei richiamare la Sua attenzione sul tema del patrimonio culturale europeo. Il sito web della Commissione definisce i siti del patrimonio europeo come pietre miliari nella creazione dell'Europa attuale, testimone degli albori della civiltà oppure dell'Europa così come la conosciamo oggi. Tutti questi luoghi celebrano e simboleggiano gli ideali, i valori, la storia e l'integrazione europea.

Dal 2013 a questi siti, selezionati per il loro valore simbolico e per il ruolo che hanno svolto nella storia europea, viene assegnato il marchio del patrimonio europeo nell'ambito del programma "Europa creativa". Insieme agli Itinerari culturali del Consiglio d'Europa, ai cammini del turismo religioso rappresentano un patrimonio da valorizzare e implementare. Le chiedo allora se è Sua intenzione lavorare in questa direzione e, se sì, come intende farlo?

1-0019-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – We have a rich and diverse cultural tapestry in the European Union. We have probably one of our greatest assets that lies in our culture. This is something that, in periods marked by geopolitical tensions, marked by conflict, marked by climate change and technological disruptions, gives our citizens a sense of belonging to their societies and makes them feel like they are part of society.

The work that I will lead on the 'culture compass' will focus on how we could have better cohesion in our regions, how we can protect and safeguard our cultural heritage and our culture (including

our linguistic diversities), and how we can boost the competitiveness of our creative and culture sectors. Now, this will be our general reference framework through which we promote culture in other policy areas, but it will be also the main reference framework through which we take forward our work in the cultural sector to improve the working conditions of artists, to develop a strategy on how we deal with AI in the creative and cultural sector, to provide guidance on cost-effective measures to improve the quality of life in our Member States, and to promote the role of culture in our regions. This is one of the key remits that we have in our Treaties, because our Treaties give us two roles: one to support Member States in ensuring that their cultural sectors flourish, and the second to coordinate positions on issues where we have common challenges.

1-0020-0000

**Lara Magoni (ECR).** – Lo sport non è solo competizione, è lo strumento universale per eccellenza sui temi che riguardano l'inclusione e l'integrazione. Ritengo che tale politica di inclusione non debba mai lasciare il campo ad un eccesso di ideologia.

Lei, nelle risposte alle domande scritte, ha richiamato la recente esperienza positiva dei Giochi Olimpici di Parigi. Non posso però dimenticare le polemiche nate attorno alla cerimonia di inaugurazione, nella quale lo spettacolo ha più volte messo in ombra gli atleti.

Ritengo che sia necessario continuare a lavorare per la *gender equality*, osservando nello stesso tempo l'equità delle competizioni a cui partecipano atlete transgender, nel rispetto delle legittime scelte sessuali di ognuno e dell'autonomia dell'ordinamento sportivo. L'Unione europea dovrebbe esercitare presso le federazioni sportive internazionali un'azione di sensibilizzazione per applicare protocolli uniformi e non discriminatori e garantire competizioni equilibrate.

Ciò premesso, Le chiedo se intende sostenere un approccio equilibrato, basato su evidenze scientifiche, che garantisca insieme il principio di inclusione e quello di non discriminazione.

1-0021-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – Look, there can be no compromises on fairness in sport, but at the same time, we are a Union of equality. This is a Union that promotes inclusion and diversity. And we have championed these values, mainstreaming them into our policies and our legislation.

Now, my role as Commissioner and my emphasis will be to promote a values-based European sport model. I will encourage everyone to be active to practice sport because this improves their quality of life and their well-being.

At the same time, the distinct European model of sport is based on the autonomy of sporting organisations to govern their sport without undue external influence, so it will be up to them, according to the guidelines also that are being provided by the IOC, to decide on such matters.

1-0022-0000

**Laurence Farreng (Renew).** – Monsieur le Commissaire désigné, en 1933, Franklin Roosevelt lançait le New Deal avec un important volet culturel. L'économie américaine était à l'agonie et les valeurs de démocratie étaient remises en question en Europe. En donnant un nouvel élan à la culture et en l'intégrant à son grand programme de relance, Franklin Roosevelt a défini un modèle culturel dominant pour les décennies à venir.

Il est difficile de ne pas faire le parallèle avec l'Union européenne en 2024. Notre souveraineté culturelle est remise en cause. Elle est remise en cause économiquement, par les modèles technologiques des GAFAs, leurs algorithmes et les IA qui aspirent nos données. Elle est également remise en cause culturellement, par des démocraties illibérales à nos frontières, y compris au sein même de l'Union européenne. Pourtant, notre écosystème culturel ne bénéficie que du plus petit budget de l'Union européenne. Monsieur le Commissaire désigné, le temps est venu pour un New Deal culturel pour l'Europe, pour un sursaut salvateur. Monsieur le Commissaire désigné, comment...

*(La Présidente retire la parole à l'oratrice)*

1-0023-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Look, I truly believe that we need to be ambitious, strategic and impactful when it comes to culture.

Now, I want to first start by thanking this committee, thanking this Parliament, for being so vocal and a great ally to culture, cultural and creative professionals, especially when it came to the budget of Creative Europe, which, thanks to the pressures from the co-legislators, is now 65 % higher than it was in the previous cycle, in the previous MFF. This is a discussion that we will have in 2026. I want a strategy, a culture compass, that has objectives, that is complemented by means and that is complemented by monitoring tools, so we can assess the progress that we have. In 2026, we will start the discussion on the new MFF. We will need to see what we want to finance and then how best to finance it. And I will work hand in hand with the designate-Vice-President responsible for people and skills, as well as with the designate-Commissioner responsible for the budget, to ensure that we are strategic in our financing, that we improve the working conditions of artists and creative professionals in the next budget, as well as to boost the competitiveness of the culture and creative sector industries. These are going to be crucial if we want to deliver on our goals and, through a strong budget, we can do so.

1-0024-0000

**Laurence Farreng (Renew)**. – Justement, sur ce point, beaucoup des industries culturelles sont aujourd'hui placées sous la DG Connect, que l'on parle de l'audiovisuel, du streaming musical ou encore du jeu vidéo. Vous parlez du financement et surtout de votre «Compass culturel». Je voulais savoir si votre «Compass culturel», cette boussole donc, intégrerait ces industries, qui sont aujourd'hui dans un autre portefeuille et sous une autre DG que celle que vous gèrerez à l'avenir.

1-0025-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – The work on the cultural compass will have two strands in the way I view it. First, to ensure that we reach the potential of the cultural sector itself. And then the second strand is to promote the role of culture in our policy areas, both internal and external, because we have a cultural diplomacy element that we have to take into account in our funding instruments and in our programme.

And in all our legislation, we will have to be very coordinated in the next Commission. And I will make it a point that I work with colleagues who are covering digital, colleagues who are working on health in the next Commission, colleagues who are working on regions, to promote the role of culture in delivering on our objectives in the European Union through their work as well.

1-0026-0000

**Benedetta Scuderi (Verts/ALE).** – When it comes to culture, the EU is tasked with several important responsibilities, including the protection and promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity. These are closely linked to freedom of creation and expression, which, as you recognise, are fundamental pillars of democratic societies.

The reality is that freedom of artistic expression and the safeguarding of linguistic diversity in Europe face growing threats. Certain illiberal and anti-democratic political parties and movements view culture and multilingualism as challenges to their agendas.

In this context of increasing instrumentalisation of culture, restriction on artistic freedom, politicised funding as a mechanism of pressure, and even censorship of cultural institutions, our question is, in your opinion, how will the EU cultural policy and promotion of multilingualism coexist with these national policies? And taking into account the principle of subsidiarity, how do you intend to address the growing limitation on artistic freedom in the Member States?

1-0027-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Kummissarju nnominat.** – Peress li din hi mistoqsija dwar il-multilingwizmu, nixtieq nuża l-lingwa tal-Istat Membru li l-aktar naf. Ara, il-lingwa hija wahda mill-aqwa espressjonijiet tal-identità tas-soċjetajiet tagħna. Jiena nemmen li wiehed mill-pilastri ewlenin li fuqu rridu nibnu l-kumpass tal-kultura huwa l-preservazzjoni tal-wirt storiku u kulturali tagħna, li jinkludi wkoll id-diversità lingwistika.

Fl-ahħar snin, permezz ta' investimenti mill-programm "Ewropa Kreattiva", stajna nippromwovu, pereżempju, it-traduzzjoni ta' diversi xoghlijiet ta' letteratura. Permezz tal-Erasmus+, stajna nippromwovu t-tahriġ fit-tagħlim tal-lingwi u fil-promozzjoni tal-lingwi. U kellna wkoll interventi legiżlattivi. Jekk wiehed ihares lejn id-Direttiva dwar is-Servizzi tal-Media Awdjoviziva, din tinkludi regoli ċari dwar kontenut fuq pjattaformi diġitali b'lingwi differenti. Fix-xhur li ġejjin ha nkunu qed nibdew id-diskussjoni dwar il-baġit tal-Unjoni Ewropea, il-baġit fit-tul: il-QFP, li fih irridu naraw li dawn l-investimenti jibqgħu prijorità biex nibqgħu nippromwovu d-diversità lingwistika.

Ahna nafu li fl-Unjoni Ewropea għandna madwar 50 miljun persuna li jikkellmu lingwi jew reġjonali jew ta' minoranzi. Fl-istess hin, bħalma semmejt tajjeb inti, din hija qasam, id-diversità lingwistika, fejn hemm kompetenzi tal-Istati Membri u għalhekk irridu naħdmu id f'id magħhom.

F'dak li għandu x'jaqsam mal-libertà tal-espressjoni, u l-libertà tal-espressjoni artistika, jiena nemmen li, bhala gwardjan tat-Trattat, il-Kummissjoni għandha l-obbligu, għandha d-dmir li tippreserva dan il-valur. Għandna l-għodda biex nagħmluh u, f'każ ta' bżonn, se nkunu qed nużawhom biex naraw li dawn jiġu salvagwardjati.

1-0028-0000

**Benedetta Scuderi (Verts/ALE).** – So, can you commit to advancing concrete measures to protect the freedom of expression and artistic creation? And will you commit to ensuring that aspects of artistic freedom of expression are actually included in the annual report on the rule of law, for example?

1-0029-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – These are values that for us are very dear. They are right up there in the second article of our Treaties of the European Union. We have a duty and an obligation to safeguard them, to mainstream them in all our actions, in all our programmes – in Erasmus, to mention one, in Creative Europe – but also with other colleagues within the

Commission, I will do my best to work with them to ensure that we deliver, we ensure that they are safeguarded and that there are no compromises on these values.

1-0030-0000

**Νίκος Παππάς (The Left).** – Αγαπητέ κύριε Micallef, αγαπητοί συνάδελφοι, αρχικά θα ήθελα να εκφράσω την ικανοποίησή μου που ένας νέος άνθρωπος, ένας νέος πολιτικός, είναι υποψήφιος γι' αυτό το χαρτοφυλάκιο. Ένας άνθρωπος της δικής μου γενιάς. Από εκεί και πέρα, διάβασα με προσοχή τις απαντήσεις σας στις γραπτές μας ερωτήσεις. Δεδομένου ότι έχω ιδιαίτερο ενδιαφέρον για τα θέματα του αθλητισμού, και κυρίως του ερασιτεχνικού αθλητισμού ως εργαλείου κοινωνικής ενσωμάτωσης και διεξόδου, όχι μόνο για τους νέους, αλλά για όλες τις γενιές, θα επιμείνω κάνοντάς σας μια ερώτηση σε αυτή τη θεματική. Αναφέρεστε εκτεταμένα στο ευρωπαϊκό μοντέλο αθλητισμού, κάτι που για μένα είναι αρκετά απροσδιόριστο. Ποια είναι, λοιπόν, τα βασικά χαρακτηριστικά που καθορίζουν το ευρωπαϊκό μοντέλο αθλητισμού και πώς αυτά συμβάλλουν στην προώθηση της κοινωνικής ένταξης, σε σύγκριση με άλλα μοντέλα παγκοσμίως; Επίσης, πώς σκοπεύετε να διασφαλίσετε τη βιωσιμότητα και την ισότητα στην αθλητική ανάπτυξη σε όλα τα κράτη μέλη, προκειμένου να ενισχυθεί αυτό που ονομάζετε «ευρωπαϊκό μοντέλο αθλητισμού»; Τέλος, αναμένεται ότι η χρηματοδότηση του...

(Η Πρόεδρος αφαιρεί τον λόγο από τον ομιλητή)

1-0031-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – So sports has a power to reach places where politicians cannot: it has a fundamental educational, social as well as a political role.

In Europe, we have what we call as a 'distinct' European sport model. It's one that recognises the autonomy of sporting organisations to govern their sports in the way that they deem fit, that recognises the value of sporting merit, that is based on an open system of promotion and relegation.

But then there are the final two components which are really key in this discussion: the redistribution and the solidarity between elite sport and grassroots sport, as well as the role of volunteers.

This European sport model that I envisage is one that is values-based, it is one that stands up for human and social rights. We have the chance through our work on a stronger European sport model to make it clearer to the sporting movement that we expect more from them to integrate people from different backgrounds in sport.

The beauty of sport is that it knows no background, it knows no gender, it knows no identity, it knows no rich or poor.

Sport is for everyone and it should be our mission to make it available to everyone and anyone and that it respects people for who they are, whoever they are.

1-0032-0000

**Νίκος Παππάς (The Left).** – Στο πλαίσιο που περιγράψατε ως μοντέλο ευρωπαϊκού πολιτισμού, ποιες συγκεκριμένες στρατηγικές και δράσεις προτίθεστε να αναλάβετε για την προώθηση του αθλητισμού και της σωματικής δραστηριότητας για ευάλωτες ομάδες, όπως είναι τα άτομα με αναπηρία, μετανάστες, πρώην χρήστες ουσιών και νέοι με παραβατική συμπεριφορά, ώστε να διασφαλιστεί η κοινωνική ένταξη, η πρόσβαση και η συμμετοχή αυτών των ευάλωτων ομάδων σε αθλητικές δραστηριότητες για όλους, σε τοπικό, εθνικό και ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο; Επίσης, από ποια χρηματοδοτικά εργαλεία θα μπορούσαν να χρηματοδοτηθούν όλες αυτές οι δράσεις;

1-0033-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Thank you for bringing this up. As I said, to me, sports is a powerful tool to connect people. We have to work with the Member States in this sphere. I really look forward to having a health-enhancing physical activity recommendation that encourages Member States to include in their national action plans measures such as you described to integrate into our societies people who come from disadvantaged backgrounds. But then we have important discussions in the context of the next MFF that are coming up on key tools, like, for example, the European Solidarity Corps, that can be used as a tool to engage with young people who want to work through sport to include social integration in our societies.

These are discussions that we will have next year in the context of the new MFF, and I will work with the designate-Vice-President, as well as the designate-Commissioner for budget, to ensure that these priorities are adequately financed.

1-0034-0000

**Marc Jongen (ESN)**. – Vielen Dank, Herr Micallef, auch vonseiten der ESN-Fraktion. Die Freiheit der Wissenschaft ist eine der wichtigsten Grundlagen für den Erfolg Europas und auch sehr wichtig für die Entwicklung unserer Jugend. Doch die Unterwanderung unserer Bildungsinstitutionen durch ideologische Agendawissenschaften wie *gender studies* oder *postcolonial studies* gefährdet diesen Erfolg zunehmend.

Mittlerweile gibt es an deutschen Universitäten so viele Lehrstühle für Gender wie für Pharmazie und deutlich mehr als für Altphilologie. Nonkonforme Akademiker mussten sich sogar schon zu einem Netzwerk Wissenschaftsfreiheit zusammenschließen, um sich gegen die ständigen Angriffe woker Ideologen wehren zu können.

Auch die EU fördert im Rahmen von Erasmus+ leider auch wissenschaftsfeindliche und jugendgefährdende Projekte – so etwa das Programm *DragTivism Jr* in Spanien, wo 14- bis 17-Jährige in einem mehrwöchigen Workshop als Dragqueens ausgebildet und mit Genderideologie indoktriniert wurden.

Werden Sie gefährliche ideologische Projekte dieser Art stoppen? Wie wollen Sie dafür sorgen, dass die Wissenschaft ...

*(Die Präsidentin entzieht dem Redner das Wort.)*

1-0035-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – When I see Erasmus, I see a flagship programme of our Union, a programme that has given us a family of 15 million European citizens, 15 million young people who are champions of the Union. And this is a programme that will be strengthened and that we will work to have more resources attributed to it.

Now, I had the opportunity in one of my earlier answers to make it amply clear how I will work for a values-based Union: our values – equality, solidarity, democracy and freedom for one to express themselves – are non-negotiable. They are in our Treaties, but we have championed them in our strategies, in our policies and in our funding instruments. And we will make sure that we will continue to respect them and that our funding instruments continue to champion them as well. This is something for me that is of utmost priority, and I will make it a point to make sure that these are respected. We have tools at our disposal. We will assess every case, be it on Erasmus as well as on other programmes, when there are risks to such programmes, but we will not compromise on our values.



1-0036-0000

**Marc Jongen (ESN).** – Keine ganz befriedigende oder klare Antwort. Aber Sie haben – völlig zu Recht – die Bedeutung von Erasmus+ herausgehoben. Wir begrüßen auch dieses Programm der EU, das vielen jungen Menschen zu Bildungserfahrungen verholfen hat. Und darum irritiert es uns, dass einzelne EU-Länder von diesem Programm ausgenommen werden ohne triftige Gründe.

So hat die Kommission im Dezember 2022 die Mittel aus dem Erasmus-Programm und der *Horizon-Europe*-Forschungsförderung für 21 ungarische Universitäten eingefroren, angeblich wegen der Struktur der Stiftungen, die diese Universitäten tragen. Doch auch nachdem die ungarische Regierung nachgab und die Zusammensetzung der Stiftungen änderte, wurden die Mittel bis heute nicht wieder freigegeben. Und es drängt sich der Verdacht auf, dass die Kommission hier nur einen Vorwand gesucht hat und dass sie in Wirklichkeit die Regierung Orbán für ihre Migrationspolitik oder andere Politiken bestrafen wollte.

Werden Sie diesen Verdacht ausräumen und die Erasmus+- und *Horizon-Europe*-Förderung ungarischer Universitäten wieder aufnehmen?

1-0037-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – When we speak about the rule of law, it is amply clear that we will continue to invest in the rule of law. We will continue to ensure that this remains a priority for our Union.

We have done so in the previous mandate, where the Commission has delivered mechanisms such as the rule of law mechanism that safeguard this value, which we hold so dear, but also a Conditionality Regulation that makes EU funds conditional upon the respect of the rule of law.

Now, there's been a process with one Member State that you have mentioned. This does not apply to all Hungarian universities. There are a number where there is an issue with the ownership structure. The ball is in the Hungarian Government's court to prove that the risks that were highlighted are not there any more. And once that is proven, then the Commission will make a proposal, my colleagues and College will make a proposal, for the release of those funds.

1-0038-0000

**Nela Riehl, Chair of the CULT Committee.** – Thank you all very much. We will now start a second round of questions, and I will give the floor to Mr Zdrojewski, EPP member, and may I remind you that you have one minute for your questions and two minutes for the answer.

1-0039-0000

**Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski (PPE).** – By skutecznie rządzić, by mądrze rządzić, trzeba wiedzieć, trzeba posiadać informacje. Trzeba mieć, krótko mówiąc, orientację, jak ta sfera zarządzania wygląda. W ostatnich latach wiele zrobiono, jeżeli chodzi o metodologię: ujednolicono pewne kryteria i wiemy, ile osób jest zatrudnionych w obszarze kultury, ile zarabiają – przeważnie za mało. Ale są poważne luki, są także obszary, w których ta wiedza się dezaktualizuje. Moje pytanie zmierza do tego, co ma Pan zamiar uczynić, aby badania kontynuować, luki, krótko mówiąc, wypełnić, pozyskać określoną wiedzę, aby to, o czym Pan mówi w tym Kompasie kultury, było, krótko mówiąc, skuteczniejsze, sprawniejsze i bardziej satysfakcjonujące.

I na koniec zapytam, czy jest Pan zadowolony ze swojego portfolio, w którym nie ma edukacji, nie ma mediów, a została kultura i został sport?

1-0040-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – My portfolio gives me a platform to work with many colleagues in the Commission, and I can assure you that I am thrilled about it.

Now, when it comes to the cultural sector and your question, through our work on the culture compass, the first steps that we will take will be to update the framework of cultural statistics, to be able to have informed discussions that will be able to allow us to have evidence-based actions in our work. This will be complemented by a Eurobarometer survey, where we assess the perceptions of, and the information that we are given from, our people in the cultural sector.

But when it comes to the working conditions of artists, there is an assessment which is currently ongoing on the situation in various Member States, because there are actions that are being taken at national levels, where we have statuses on the rights of the artists in some Member States, whereas in others you have also legislation. That assessment will inform our discussion. It will enable us to assess whether there are regulatory and legislative gaps, also considering that there is a body of employment and social legislation that is already applicable, and if there are gaps, we will ensure that there are the adequate follow-ups, either from a policy or legislative point of view, to address them.

1-0041-0000

**Sabrina Repp (S&D)**. – Herr Micallef! Vorhin sprachen Sie kurz die mentale Gesundheit von jungen Menschen an. Wie Sie sicher wissen, hat die Corona-Pandemie die mentale Gesundheit junger Menschen erheblich beeinträchtigt – die Raten von Angst und Depression haben sich im Vergleich zur Vorzeit mehr als verdoppelt. Fast die Hälfte der jungen Europäerinnen und Europäer gibt an, dass ihre psychischen Gesundheitsbedürfnisse nur unzureichend erfüllt werden.

Können Sie darlegen, wie Sie planen, die mentale Gesundheit junger Menschen auf der europäischen Agenda zu verankern? Ist es auch vorgesehen, dazu junge Menschen aktiv in die Gestaltung dieser Maßnahmen einzubringen, die dezidiert ihr Wohlbefinden betreffen?

1-0042-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – There is no greater priority for us than the health and well-being of our citizens. When it comes to young people, I know that there are 1 in 2 young people right now in our Union that are suffering from anxiousness, loneliness, other forms of mental health challenges. And for us, these continue to be priorities.

Now, my portfolio gives me the responsibility and the role to be able to address these challenges through culture and through sport.

When it comes to sport, there is no doubt about the power of sport to help people better their quality of life. And indeed, in our work on the health-enhancing physical activity recommendation, this will definitely be one of the priority areas where we will need to work with Member States so that their action plans have concrete measures to help these target groups.

But culture also plays a very important role. Since 2010, the World Health Organization has been reviewing the contributions of arts and culture to our well-being, to prevent, detect and even to treat disease. And we have seen in many of our Member States' programmes where through music therapy people are being assisted in various conditions where we have culture for prescription programmes, culture as a prescription.

This is an area where there is already an expert group between the Member States that is assessing what we have so far to be able to have peer learning exercises to see what best practices are being implemented, and roll them out across Member States. And these are actions that I will support. We will have an outreach campaign on these issues. We will have measures to promote culture for prescription. And this is a topic that I hold very dear, and I want to devote a lot of my energy to.

1-0043-0000

**Sunčana Glavak (PPE).** – Dobrodošli u Europski parlament. Uvažavajući dvostruku ulogu sporta u promicanju socijalne uključenosti i unapređenja javnog zdravlja, na koji način planirate iskoristiti sport za poticanje društvene kohezije i zdravstvenih koristi, osobito među ranjivim skupinama?

How do you intend to ensure that the sports initiative is part of solution to contemporary issues such as obesity, mental health and the influence of social media, unrealistic standards of physical appearance and lifestyle, as well as the impact of the gaming industry? This requires a systematic approach collaboration among schools, sports organisations, local communities and governments. Thank you.

1-0045-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – In my discussions ahead of this hearing, there was one conversation that I distinctly remember, and in that conversation, I was told that if there's one member in every family that practices sport, if you reach that particular member of that household, then you reach the whole family. We have through sport a very, very strong tool to promote social inclusion, to promote healthy lifestyles.

When I look at the data and the statistics on obesity in the European Union, non-communicable diseases as a result of inactivity, it is nothing beyond shocking. Just by looking at the expenditure as a result of inactivity, you realise that we are spending EUR 8 billion on these issues. This is the combined health budget annually of two of our Member States: Luxembourg and Lithuania. That's what they spend on health care annually.

Now we have to work with the Member States to have this included in their action plans when we take forward our work on the health-enhancing physical recommendation, but I also believe that we have to promote sports in other policy areas, in education, in our social priorities, in our integration priorities. And that is something that I will work on with my colleagues in the College of Commissioners, with designate Vice-President Mînzatu, the designate Commissioner responsible for health, and with other Commissioners to ensure that sport is a tool, that we use sport as a tool to be able to deliver on these issues.

1-0046-0000

**Malika Sorel (PFE).** – La commissaire Helena Dalli a évoqué la proposition de refonte de la directive sur les abus sexuels sur mineurs. Elle s'est félicitée d'avancées majeures en matière de consentement dans les relations sexuelles. De quoi est-il question?

Je la cite: «Comme l'a expliqué la commissaire Johansson devant la commission LIBE, cette définition du consentement précise que le consentement doit être libre et volontaire et ne peut être déduit uniquement du silence ou de l'absence de résistance de l'enfant.» Fin de son propos.

Les experts le disent, l'enfant n'a ni le savoir d'un adulte, ni son alphabet sexuel. Nous ne pouvons parler de consentement éclairé et chacun peut imaginer l'étendue des dégâts. Il ne s'agit donc ici ni

plus ni moins que d'une caution de la pédophilie totalement incompatible avec nos valeurs européennes.

Condamnez-vous cette approche du viol des enfants? Qu'allez-vous faire pour mettre un coup d'arrêt à cette dérive?

1-0047-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – When it comes to children, we have a moral and a legal obligation to protect our children. This is not something that I take lightly, and indeed, we have had a lot of work being done in the current mandate to deliver a strong children's rights strategy that protects children in our courtrooms, in judicial systems, through which we have an integrated protection system for our children, where we protect our children online with the 'better internet for kids' strategy, where we have cooperated with this Parliament to deliver on concrete measures that protect our children.

Now, our values are not something that should be up for discussion. We will continue to promote our values of equality and the work that Commissioner Dalli has championed throughout her mandate, and we will continue to ensure that these are mainstreamed and protected in our legislation.

1-0048-0000

**Marco Squarta** (ECR). – Benvenuto Commissario designato Micallef, vorrei fare riferimento alla digitalizzazione delle piccole e medie imprese nel settore culturale e alle opportunità straordinarie che ne potrebbero derivare.

La transizione digitale, come sappiamo, rappresenta una sfida complessa, soprattutto per le piccole e medie imprese che sono spesso le custodi delle nostre tradizioni e innovazioni culturali e faticano ad accedere a finanziamenti e formazione. Considerando che la nostra età culturale merita di essere valorizzata e preservata anche nell'era digitale, vorrei chiederle dunque quali strategie intende adottare per supportare le piccole e medie imprese.

Inoltre, anche i giovani e le nuove generazioni dovranno svolgere un ruolo di prima linea nel tramandare l'eredità culturale di cui facciamo parte. Nei programmi a loro dedicati, già citati nelle Sue risposte scritte, ci sarà spazio per progetti specifici volti ad aumentare la consapevolezza del valore del patrimonio culturale per il loro futuro? E in che modo promuoverà l'inclusione sociale senza compromettere i valori culturali e tradizionali europei?

1-0049-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – In the European Union, we have a rich and diverse cultural tapestry. This is one of the greatest assets that our Union has, and we must continue to invest in developing it.

Indeed, our Treaties give us the role of supporting Member States to make sure that their cultures flourish, as well as the role of coordinating efforts and providing strategic guidance in view of changes that no Member States can tackle on their own. Changes like digitalisation, like AI, like environmental sustainability.

This is precisely why we need to invest all our efforts as a matter of urgency on having a culture compass that guides and harnesses the multiple dimensions of culture in EU policymaking, but also that promotes culture in other policy areas.

So, working together with the designate-Commissioner responsible for Digital, the designate-Vice-President responsible for Skills, we will promote culture as a tool have it more accessible to SMEs and in the digital sphere.

Now, when it comes to tools that we have at our disposal – because we will need tools – right now we have a fragmented approach, with culture featuring in around 20 funding instruments and we will need to ensure that we are strategic in the next MFF, deciding on what we want to finance and then how best we will finance it.

1-0050-0000

**Hristo Petrov (Renew).** – Mr Micallef, your participation in democratic life is a key part of your portfolio, but there is still much to do for young people with fewer opportunities. Many barriers exist for those in institutions or living in poor conditions, such as those from minority groups like the Roma – the growing digital divide or language barriers, for example.

There is compelling evidence that young people are not disinterested about politics, but rather insufficiently informed and disempowered. Their voices often go unheard, or at best, others speak on their behalf. Real engagement means everyone should have the chance to participate. This is especially important when we talk about children and young people. What specific initiatives will you reinforce for young people with fewer opportunities to engage?

*(The President cut off the speaker)*

1-0051-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – One of the key tools that immediately comes to mind when you refer to this is the youth policy dialogues. This will be a tool where we encourage young people to use their own voice in shaping the future that they want to see for our Union. As a College of Commissioners, it will give us the chance to listen to young people, to understand their needs and their concerns, and to be able to work upon them.

Now, we will have the first set of youth policy dialogues in the first 100 days – I will organise mine in the first 100 days, and I will encourage and support other Commissioners to do the same to complement our work on the Youth Check, to complement the President's youth advisory body. And I see three pillars on which I want to focus the way we organise these policy dialogues. First, I want them to be structured, to have prepared and informed discussions where young people can express their views and then have a follow-up, with these feeding, ideally, into the President's youth advisory board. Secondly, I want them to be innovative, with hands-on approaches; I want to take the Union and to take this institution to the Member States and to our regions. The last thing we need here are echo chambers where people come and pay us lip service – we want to hear frustrations, we want to hear what we can improve, and we want the youths to tell us this. And third, we want these to be a celebration of our values. We want these to be a celebration of inclusion, of diversity, and I know that many of you have ideas on how we should work on these, and I'm very keen to have you on board and to have your participation in these dialogues as well.

1-0052-0000

**Marcos Ros Sempere (S&D).** – Señor Micallef, nuestros jóvenes pasan media vida en entornos en línea. Construir un entorno seguro en Internet para los niños y los jóvenes implica trabajar activamente para protegerlos de peligros en línea: el ciberacoso, la explotación y el contenido inapropiado o ilegal. Y es fundamental invertir los suficientes recursos en habilidades de

alfabetización digital y mediática, así como en sistemas de verificación de edad para el contenido en línea.

En ese contexto, ¿nos podría explicar más sobre las posibles medidas que prevé el plan de acción contra el ciberacoso? Y también, ¿cómo planea cooperar en la lucha contra el ciberacoso en redes sociales con la comisaria designada Lahbib y la vicepresidenta ejecutiva designada Virkkunen?

1-0053-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Hatred, bullying and harassment have no place in our societies. We are societies based on respect, on diversity and on inclusion. And this applies both to the physical and the virtual worlds.

Now, to me, there is already sufficient and clear information to show that excessive screen time in our society is causing harm – physical harm, psychological harm, as well as societal damage. We have made, in this mandate, significant steps forward. If you look at the Digital Services Act that we have in place, this already includes specific rules and regulations through which very large online platforms and very large online search engines have to comply with age verification, age-appropriate content, parental controls and cyberbullying, but now it's the time to take the next step. We need a strategy that really considers the fact that the more time people are spending online, the greater the risks and the exposure to cyberbullying.

The strategy on cyberbullying will go hand in hand with the work of the designate-Vice-President responsible for tech sovereignty on the EU-wide inquiry on the effects of social media. And I see it based on four pillars. The first thing we have to do is have a shared common definition of what cyberbullying is. That is the starting point for this discussion. Then we have to see what best practices are being implemented in Member States and roll them out in our Union. The third point, if you allow me, is to cooperate with civil society through the trusted flagger scheme to ensure that they contribute to our efforts in detecting and identifying cyberbullying online, and finally, encouraging a culture of seeking advice and of reporting cyberbullying, because there are still many cases that go undetected and that is something we need to work on.

1-0054-0000

**Manuela Ripa (PPE)**. – Meine Fragen beziehen sich auf den Kulturbereich. Zu Recht ist die Förderung und Festigung der Demokratie eines der erklärten Ziele der Förderprogramme der Europäischen Kommission für den Kultur- und Kreativsektor. Und ja, Kunst, Kultur und kreatives Schaffen sind demokratierelevant und relevant für einen offenen gesellschaftspolitischen Diskurs.

Der Einsatz von KI bietet natürlich auch hier neue Möglichkeiten, kann aber – wie im Medienbereich durch Transparenzverlust in der kreativen Wertschöpfungskette und im Zusammenspiel mit individuellen und ideologischen Interessen – Risiken bergen und sie verschärfen.

Daher meine Fragen: Welche Möglichkeiten sehen Sie im Rahmen des KI-Gesetzes, aber auch im Rahmen der KI-Strategie, die Sie angesprochen haben, die Kultur- und Kreativproduktion so zu gestalten, dass sie die Demokratie und ihre Werte wahrt und diese nicht durch die KI gefährdet werden? Und wie sehen Sie im Rahmen Ihres Portfolios demokratieförderndes Potenzial durch den Einsatz von KI?

1-0055-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – So when it comes to AI, I firmly believe we need a forward-looking strategy, one that enables and reinforces human creativity, one that embraces

change and one that boosts the competitiveness of these sectors. These are sectors that are profoundly affected by AI. This effect is mainly because this is a tool that is being used across the sectoral value chain and, as a result, we can expect some structural changes even in the job market.

We have made significant steps in this mandate to support and protect the cultural sector in this digital age. We have the Digital Services Act, we have the Digital Markets Act, we have the copyright framework, we have the AI Act, which are all concrete tools, but these are tools that predate the generative AI boom, where we train models to come up with, instantaneously, answers for different things.

So what we need is something tailor-made, something that is specifically for the cultural and creative sector industries. In my view, this has to first and foremost support the adaptations needed by the cultural and creative sector industry in view of these developments in the AI sector. Secondly, we have to promote the ethical and fair use of AI, where we have transparency in these platforms on how these models are being trained and on the remuneration that is due to cultural and creative professionals. And the third and final point is that where we encourage collaboration between the tech industry as well as the cultural and creative sectors to really unleash their potential in the AI sector.

1-0056-0000

**Benedetta Scuderi (Verts/ALE).** – Thank you, and thank you for your interest and attention to youth. So my question is basically a follow-up on a point that you tackled before. You mentioned the Youth Advisory Board, the youth dialogues and the 'youth check', and these are all great tools to address the multidimensional issues that are affecting youth. However, our concern is that they usually regard and engage only a small part of the young population and this might not include an actual impact assessment. So our question is, how do you intend to reach a wider range of young people across Europe, considering social, economic background, provenance, ethnicity, education level, and so on and so forth? And how will you ensure that these also engage the perspective of future generations, including an actual impact assessment of EU policy on the future?

1-0057-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – The youth policy dialogues really have to be a tool through which we allow young people to express themselves. These will be organised by all the Commissioners. I will work with them to coordinate the efforts in this respect, and I have already mentioned how I want these to be innovative, how I want to take them to regions, how I want to ensure that we do not have echo chambers where people come and pay us lip service. This will be complemented by the Youth Check and the Youth Advisory Board, where we will ensure that we also gather views and factor them into legislation.

What these tools will not be will be a substitute for our encouragement to young people to make their views heard in our societies, in our political systems. We have young people that are significantly underrepresented in our political systems, and this is translating into a situation where they are not bothering to vote. If we look at the last European elections, you had a 42 % turnout for people who are under the age of 40, whereas people who are over 50 years of age have turned out in percentages that are over 55 %. Now that creates also an issue from an intergenerational fairness point of view, because it translates into policies that many times might not take into account the views of young people.

So what we really need to do is encourage young people to participate in political life, to be active in political life, because what we need is to have another generation of champions for the European Union, like I remember the young people who were champions in my Member State, in the Member

State that I come from, at the time of EU membership and in those discussions, they were the ones who were driving forward the movement that led to our accession.

1-0058-0000

**Ελεονώρα Μελέτη (PPE).** – Κυρία Πρόεδρε, κύριε υποψήφιε Επίτροπε, δυστυχώς παρατηρούμε μια σημαντική αύξηση του χρόνου που περνούν οι νέοι στο διαδίκτυο. Το επισημάνατε και εσείς πριν από λίγα λεπτά. Η ανεξέλεγκτη πρόσβασή τους στο ίντερνετ και στα μέσα κοινωνικής δικτύωσης σίγουρα συμβάλλει στον υπερβολικό χρόνο που περνούν μπροστά από μια οθόνη. Η νεολαία μας εκτίθεται καθημερινά σε επιβλαβές, παραπλανητικό και ακατάλληλο περιεχόμενο που μπορεί να απειλήσει την ασφάλεια των νέων, να επηρεάσει τη σωματική τους υγεία, αλλά και να οδηγήσει σε διαταραχή της πνευματικής τους ανάπτυξης και ευεξίας, με συνέπειες που ίσως να μην είμαστε σε θέση ακόμα να προβλέψουμε. Στη γραπτή σας απάντηση στις ερωτήσεις μας, αναφέρατε ότι θα εργαστείτε πάνω σε μια πανευρωπαϊκή έρευνα σχετικά με τις ευρύτερες επιπτώσεις των μέσων κοινωνικής δικτύωσης στην ευημερία και στο ευ ζην. Θα μπορούσατε να μας πείτε ποια συγκεκριμένα μέτρα και ενέργειες σκοπεύετε να πάρετε για να εξασφαλίσετε την προστασία της ψυχικής υγείας των νέων; Έχετε κάποιο σαφές σχέδιο δράσης για να διασφαλίσετε τη διαδικτυακή ασφάλεια της νεολαίας μας; Μπορείτε να μας πείτε μερικές λεπτομέρειες;

1-0059-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – The protection of young people online is an absolute priority on which we have to devote our efforts.

It's quite clear to me that this is having significant harmful effects on our young children, which are vulnerable online.

Now, there will be an EU-wide inquiry on the negative effects of social media, which will be led by the Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Vice-President Virkkunen, to which I will support.

And this will go hand-in-hand with the action plan against cyberbullying, where we will have to have cooperation with civil society to ensure that we detect cases of cyberbullying, where we use their expertise – because they have accumulated knowledge of what this looks like – to report these cases, where we roll out best practices that are already implemented in Member States, where we work on a common definition of what cyberbullying is, and this will be the basis of our work.

This will complement also the work that was done in this mandate: we have a strategy that is specifically targeting better internet for kids. We have recommendations that are aimed at educators and at policymakers to ensure that children are protected online in education environments as well, and this is work that we will have to sustain in this mandate through the implementation of the children's rights strategy. This is something which I hope to have an exchange with this Parliament on and where we can work forward together as well.

But we must also promote other policies, such as sport, to give young people and children avenues to substitute screen time with healthier options.

1-0060-0000

**Νίκος Παππάς (The Left).** – Λαμβάνοντας υπόψη τις πρόσφατες περικοπές προϋπολογισμού σε επιχορηγήσεις στον πολιτιστικό τομέα σε αρκετές χώρες μέλη, είναι ολοένα πιο προφανές ότι αυτές οι χρηματοδοτικές μειώσεις επηρεάζουν δυσανάλογα τις πιο ευάλωτες κοινότητες. Η πρόσβαση σε πολιτιστικές εκδηλώσεις και δραστηριότητες είναι ουσιώδης για την προώθηση της κοινωνικής συνοχής, της προσωπικής έκφρασης και της ευημερίας της κοινότητας.



Δεδομένου αυτού του πλαισίου, ποιες συγκεκριμένες στρατηγικές θα εφαρμόσετε για να ενισχύσετε την πρόσβαση σε πολιτιστικές εκδηλώσεις και δραστηριότητες για αυτές τις περιθωριοποιημένες κοινότητες; Πώς σκοπεύετε, επίσης, να διασφαλίσετε ότι όλοι, ανεξαρτήτως κοινωνικοοικονομικής κατάστασης, μπορούν να συμμετέχουν ενεργά και να επωφελούνται από τις διάφορες πολιτιστικές προσφορές; Επιπλέον, ποιες ενέργειες θα αναλάβετε για να εμπλέξετε αυτές τις κοινότητες στον σχεδιασμό και την εκτέλεση πολιτιστικών προγραμμάτων, διασφαλίζοντας ότι οι φωνές και οι ανάγκες τους θα εκπροσωπηθούν επαρκώς;

1-0061-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – We have to be strategic when it comes to culture. This strategic perspective is one where we have to promote culture as an area that helps Member States, where we help Member States promote social inclusion, where we use it as a tool to deliver on social inclusion.

This will be done through our efforts in the culture compass, where we will also have strategic action that ensures access to culture in our regions, for example. Our regions are facing significant challenges – lack of access to services, issues with digital connectivity, issues of different sorts – and we must promote, through culture, incentives where we help young people have more access to cultural works. This is an issue where I want to work in the next culture compass, to promote and preserve culture in our regions, because this creates opportunities for cultural tourism, this creates jobs, this creates incentives for vibrant communities.

So one of the pillars on which we base our cultural compass has to take into account the promotion of culture in these policies, whether it's in social, with the work of designate-Vice-President Mînzatu, in education as well, and in other areas.

1-0062-0000

**Joanna Scheuring-Wielgus (S&D)**. – Według europejskiego modelu organizacji sportu, który został już dzisiaj tutaj wspomniany, sport postrzegany jest jako coś, co wpływa na zdrowie, na integrację, na solidarność. Sport ma więc być czymś takim, co nas łączy, z różnych krajów, ale także różnych grup społecznych. Natomiast jest jedna grupa społeczna w sporcie, która nadal jest dyskryminowana i w jakiś sposób szykanowana. Mówię tutaj o kobietach w sporcie.

Stąd mam dwa pytania. Pierwsze pytanie jest takie: jak zamierza Pan walczyć z seksizmem, z molestowaniem seksualnym i przemocą fizyczną i psychiczną w sporcie w stosunku do kobiet.

A drugie pytanie dotyczy tego, że mamy około 15% relacji w mediach sportowych, które dotyczą sportu, który wykonują kobiety. Jak zamierza Pan promować kobiety w sporcie i walczyć z tym brakiem uwagi w mediach i brakiem widoczności kobiet uprawiających sport? Po prostu sport.

1-0063-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – To me, sports is about our way of life in the European Union. It's about the European way of life. Our values is what will guide our work. We want a values-based European sport model, a values-based European sport model that can help us promote our values and priorities, including with the sporting movement.

We have an opportunity to be politically assertive in our stronger youth European sports model. And we have to make it clear to the sporting movement what our expectations are in this area.

Another strand of the sports model that will have an important role to play in this respect will be our sporting diplomacy, where we make it clear to the global community what our standards in sport are, the values of equality, the values of inclusion.

Another area of work will have to be the promotion of sport to reach objectives in other policy areas, be they social or in education etc. In complementing this we will have a health-enhancing physical activity recommendation that will be renewed. We will have to work with Member States to ensure that the barriers that there are for women, for LGBTIQ communities and those who are disadvantaged right now are torn down through action plans with concrete measures that promote inclusion, and a coordinating role for me as Commissioner to oversee those efforts, to make sure that that we deliver on those.

1-0064-0000

**Annamária Vicsek (PFE).** – Thank you, Chair. Honourable Commissioner-designate, the President of the Commission has entrusted all of the Commissioner-designates to support candidate countries to prepare for joining the EU. The people of some Western Balkan candidate countries have been in the negotiating process for EU membership for more than a decade. In addition to consequent negotiating fatigue and EU scepticism, their enthusiasm and support for EU membership is often fluctuating because of the controversial handling of some topics in the EU like migration, gender and peace and war. Having in mind that the support for EU integration is the highest among youth compared to the other age groups, what are you planning to do to include the governmental and non-governmental youth organisations from candidate countries in the programmes and bodies of the Commission, such as the Youth Policy Dialogue or the President's Youth Advisory Board?

1-0065-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – Now, when we speak about enlargement, this is about millions of people in areas that neighbour our Union that aspire to live their European dream.

It's true that it is a merit-based process, but we also have a duty: we are duty-bound to help them realise these aspirations.

In this current mandate, through programmes like Erasmus and through our actions on sport, we have already integrated the participation of many of the candidate countries in these programmes and in these initiatives.

Now, this is a powerful reminder of how culture and sport can be enablers on our strategic priorities in enlargement, but in global engagement, and it is in our best interest to use them as such.

In the next mandate, we will have to have the discussion. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Commission to have possibilities to discuss, even with the youth.

I had the opportunity to mention a bit earlier on how I remember the youth in the Member State that I know best and their championing role in leading my Member State to EU membership, and it is our duty to help the youth in enlargement countries to be able to do the same.

I have already had a discussion with the designate-Commissioner responsible for Enlargement, and we are already having ideas of how we can, through the youth dialogue, involve youth in accession countries in sharing their ideas and their views with us on these issues.

1-0066-0000

**Stephen Nikola Bartulica (ECR).** – Ljudi u Hrvatskoj su zabrinuti, posebno roditelji, s nametanjem rodne ideologije, posebno prema djeci već u osnovnoj školi. Misle da iz toga proizlazi zbunjenost i nove nepravde, posebno prema djevojkama. Imam dva pitanja. Dakle, da li možete dati definiciju na pitanje što je žena? I drugo, je li smatrate da je natjecanje muškaraca u ženskom sportu temeljna europska vrijednost?

1-0067-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – I believe we have a moral and legal obligation to protect our children. We have a European sport model that is values based, that is based on the values of inclusion, of diversity, of equality. I believe that sport is for everyone and it's for anyone. I will encourage Europeans to be active because this contributes to their health and to their well-being.

When it comes to the participation of people from from different genders or different identities in sporting competitions, in elite sporting competitions specifically, this is one of the foundations of our sport movement, of our sports model, that the sporting movement is to decide on how they govern their sport without external influence. And this is a sport model that I will continue to defend. It's their decision. It's the sporting movement's decision to decide on these issues. My priority will be to encourage Europeans to be active and to stay healthy. Sport is for everyone, no matter what your background is, what your gender is, what your identity is. Because that is the Union that I believe in, a Union of equality.

1-0068-0000

**Nikola Minchev (Renew).** – Dear Mr Commissioner-designate, while recognising the economical and social power of elite sports, it's also vital that the European sports model ensures a more equitable distribution of resources, particularly to grassroots sports. How do you plan to strengthen the European sports model in order to ensure that the grassroots sports clubs benefit from the revenues earned mainly at the top level? And what do you think would be the impact of the two recent decisions by the Court of Justice of the European Union on the European sports model and its governance – the two decisions being the one regarding the European Super League and the other one regarding the transfer rules? Thank you.

1-0069-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – Our sport model is based on five principles: the autonomy of sporting organisations, an open system of promotion and relegation, the competitive nature of sports, the distribution and the solidarity between elite and grassroots sports, and the role of volunteers. Now, I have mentioned at length how this autonomy means that the sporting movement can govern and regulate their sport without undue external influence. But this is not without any conditions. In fact, there are two very important preconditions to this autonomy. The first is that they respect EU law. And the second is that they follow good governance principles, which are: accountability; they have to be clear; they have to be transparent; and they have to be fair in the way that they manage sport.

And we will have the opportunity to be very political in our work on the sport model, where we make it clear to the sporting movement that the respect for our competition law is not something that we can compromise on and we will have to ensure that they comply with this legislation that we have inside the Union. This will be key in the next few months.

And then we have also to look at, for example, whether we regulate sports like what's happening in Italy with the way that football is being regulated, whether we need to reinforce our values and view

of the involvement of State actors in our sport, in golf and tennis and in boxing, where we now see third countries investing heavily in our sporting movement.

1-0070-0000

**Zala Tomašič (PPE).** – Gospa predsednica! Mene pa zanima, kako boste zagotovili, da „youth check” ne bo samo še en birokratski postopek Evropske unije? Da ne bo to postopek, pri katerem bo Komisija zgolj formalno odključala vključevanje mladih, brez da bi dejansko upoštevala njihove predloge? In kako bo „youth check” dejansko deloval v praksi?

Ali bodo vse politike podvržene „youth checku” ali samo določene, in če samo določene, kako se bo odločilo, katere? Ker je težko reči, da kakšna politika ne vpliva na mlade.

Zanima me tudi, kako boste merili dejansko učinkovitost „youth checka” in zagotovili, da se bo njegov vpliv odražal v konkretnih zakonodajnih predlogih.

Kako boste zagotovili, da bo postopek pregleden in da bodo mladi imeli dostop do rezultatov, da bodo videli, če so se njihovi predlogi in komentarji dejansko upoštevali?

Na koncu me pa tudi zanima, kako nameravate mlade obvestiti o obstoju tega mehanizma, da bodo imeli priložnost sodelovati.

1-0071-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – There is one keyword, and I think actually you have used it: transparency. The Youth Check is something that will be applied systematically. So it's not just for specific policies. Every proposal from next year, from 2025, every proposal that will be in the first annex of the Commission work programme will be assessed for its relevance to youth. Now, the fact that it will apply to all the initiatives in the Commission work programme means that there is a process there that involves the two co-legislators on strategic programming of our legislation, that gives them visibility as to which proposals and initiatives this would be applying to. So there is also the possibility of the institutions, the other co-legislators having their say on which actions they believe are relevant to youth. If a proposal is then deemed to be relevant, there will be a youth-specific impact assessment. And thirdly, we will also consider the possibility of there being youth-specific consultations.

Now, I will make myself available to this Parliament, as well as to stakeholders, so that if they feel strongly about a particular initiative, a particular legislation that they deem to be relevant, I will take that feedback on board, and I will make it a point that I communicate that message, because I understand that my role is to be the voice of youth, the voice of this generation in the European Commission in the next mandate. I would be more than happy also to work with colleagues in this committee to deliver on this.

1-0072-0000

**Sandro Ruotolo (S&D).** – Signor Commissario designato, dobbiamo fare di tutto per garantire che ogni minore che vive nell'Unione europea possa godere degli stessi diritti e vivere libero da discriminazioni e intimidazioni di qualsiasi tipo.

Tutto inizia dall'infanzia. La povertà educativa, che colpisce principalmente le periferie delle nostre città e porta a baby gang e criminalità organizzata, è un sintomo preoccupante perché si trasforma in povertà culturale, che è una vera e propria emergenza sociale. I bambini delle nostre periferie

hanno il diritto di sognare e cambiare il loro futuro e l'Unione europea deve sostenerli e porre i loro diritti al centro delle politiche comunitarie.

In che modo intende migliorare l'efficacia della strategia dell'Unione europea sui diritti dei minori del 2021 e garantirne un'attuazione più concreta? In che modo collaborerà con il vicepresidente esecutivo designato Mînzatu per rafforzare la garanzia per l'infanzia?

*(La Presidente toglie la parola all'oratore)*

1-0073-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – The honourable Member mentioned a line which has really resonated: children must be able to dream. Our children have no responsibilities. The responsibilities are ours as decision-makers, as legislators, as politicians, to ensure that we give them a future filled with hope and with opportunity. Now, in the previous mandate, in this mandate, we have put in place a strong children's rights strategy. Now it's time to implement and to take the next steps.

I believe we have to be a lot more ambitious. If we look at our children in our society, we have 20 % of our societies in the European Union that are made up of children, and a quarter of them who are at risk of poverty. So we're speaking about a little bit more than 20 million children that are at risk of poverty. That is the combined population of Austria, Bulgaria and Ireland. 'At risk of poverty' now means that they are on a cliff edge: one unexpected move and they are poor. Our target is that, by 2030, we alleviate 5 million children from being at risk of poverty, and to me that is a bit of a concern, because that leaves a significant number of children behind, which also poses a challenge from an intergenerational point of view, because it creates an intergenerational transmission of poverty.

This is something which we need to work on hand in hand with the designate Vice-President for people and skills. We need to reinforce the child's guarantee that gives children access to education, care and healthcare. But we also need to work on the action plan on the implementation of the pillar of social rights, because that helps the parents, and there is a direct link between the labour market conditions of the parents and the state of children in our societies.

1-0074-0000

**Hélder Sousa Silva (PPE)**. – Senhor Comissário indigitado Glenn Micallef, apesar da recente recomendação da Comissão sobre o combate à pirataria *online* de conteúdos em direto, esta prática continua a pôr em causa a sustentabilidade dos setores desportivo e audiovisual em direto, que enfrentam perdas financeiras significativas. Perdas essas, que, direi eu, também têm impacto nos Estados-Membros e, indiretamente, na União Europeia. São evidentes as limitações do Regulamento sobre os Serviços Digitais para combater adequadamente as novas formas de pirataria digital. A pergunta que lhe coloco é a seguinte: se a avaliação em curso do Instituto da Propriedade Intelectual da União Europeia concluir que a atual recomendação é insuficiente, irá o Senhor Comissário comprometer-se a propor uma ação legislativa rápida para garantir que os nossos sectores de conteúdos estão («...»)

*(a Presidente retira a palavra ao orador)*

1-0075-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – This is directly related to the competitiveness of our culture and our sports sectors. If you look at the sports sector specifically, there is virtually no

demand for sports content which is not live in our Union. So this means also that there is an effect on the revenues that are generated by the sports movement, and thereby an effect on one of the foundations of the pillars of our sports model that basically ensures the solidarity between elite sport and grassroots sport. Because if you don't have revenues, then you cannot invest in grassroots sport.

Now, I am very much aware of the initiatives in this Parliament, the resolutions that there were, and these have led to a recommendation which was adopted this year, through which we will assess the efforts of Member States to take down illegal content, pirated content as regards to sport. That assessment is still ongoing with the EU Intellectual Property Office. It is something that we will monitor. It's an assessment that is earmarked to end in November next year. The date is specifically chosen to coincide with the assessment on the Digital Services Act and the way it interacts with the copyright framework. And subject to that assessment, we will decide on what the next steps would be. It is not excluded that there will be the need for either policy or legislative action, but that will depend on the outcome of the assessment on the recommendation that we have in place at the moment.

1-0076-0000

**Νικόλαος Αναδιώτης (NI).** – Αξιότιμε κύριε Micallef, οι προκλήσεις για τη νέα γενιά είναι πολυσύνθετες. Στις επιλογές των παιδιών και των νέων μας καθοριστική είναι η επίδραση των μέσων κοινωνικής δικτύωσης. Η άσκηση τρομοκρατίας και εκφοβισμού μεταξύ ανηλίκων, το bullying, δηλαδή, λεκτικό, σωματικό ή ψυχολογικό, αποτελεί όχι μόνο ελληνικό φαινόμενο, αλλά ευρωπαϊκό και διεθνές. Η νεολαία προβαίνει σε τέτοιες απρόκλητες και αδικαιολόγητες πράξεις βίας και επιθετικότητας είτε εικονικά, στον κυβερνοχώρο, είτε στην πραγματική ζωή, εντός και εκτός σχολείου. Σύμφωνα με έρευνα του Ευρωβαρόμετρου, 1 στα 10 παιδιά γίνεται θύμα κάθε μήνα. Τα αποτελέσματα είναι τραγικά. Έχουμε δει να φτάνουν τα θύματα ακόμα και στην αυτοκτονία. Υπεύθυνοι για όλα αυτά είναι τα μέσα κοινωνικής δικτύωσης, η έλλειψη κατάρτισης των εκπαιδευτικών, η Πολιτεία και η οικογένεια.

Κύριε Micallef, ποια είναι η συνολική θεώρηση και ποιο το ολιστικό όραμά σας για τους νέους μας; Ποιοι είναι οι στόχοι σας για την ενδυνάμωσή τους; Η ανάπτυξη και προώθηση πολιτικών και προγραμμάτων και δράσεων αποτελεσματικών εν τοις πράγμασι υπέρ των νέων στον τομέα...

(Η Πρόεδρος αφαιρεί τον λόγο από τον ομιλητή)

1-0077-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that there is a direct link between the time that people spend online and the negative effects, the harmful effects of excessive screen time. You have mentioned psychological effects. There are physical effects, and the effects to our society which which you have also pointed out.

This means that we have to work, in the next Commission, to implement recommendations that we have adopted during this mandate, giving policy-makers as well as educators guidance on what we expect in terms of how they manage with digital tools, with our children, and building on those we have to take our work forward on the EU-wide inquiry, which will be led by the Vice-President, on the harmful effects of social media, as well as on the action plan on cyber bullying.

This is something that I will work on as a matter of priority. Specifically looking at the impacts of children online, where we see negative also mental health effects of excessive screen time, and it's an area of work where I will devote a lot of attention. One area that I would like to use is the promotion of sport and culture as alternatives to time that children spend online to give them a healthier, viable alternative where they can actually improve and better their well-being.

1-0078-0000

**Malika Sorel (PFE).** – Nos jeunes éprouvent de plus en plus de difficultés à s'insérer dans un avenir commun. Pour faire face à leur désillusion politique, nos sociétés doivent leur proposer un modèle d'avenir commun, mais elles ne sont plus en capacité de le faire. Nous avons de plus en plus de mal à former une communauté politique, parce que ce sont les ressorts socioculturels qui déterminent les peuples et parce que nous ne parvenons pas à intégrer culturellement une immigration débridée qui vient de cultures éloignées. Beaucoup d'énergie et d'argent sont mobilisés pour faire face à ce flot d'immigration, au détriment de nos jeunes.

Par ailleurs, l'Union européenne met tout en œuvre pour piller les talents des pays du Sud, ce qui pousse les pauvres et les jeunes de ces pays à s'exiler en Europe et accentue les problèmes que je viens de décrire. Avez-vous conscience du fait que ce pillage du Sud par l'Union européenne est moralement condamnable? Et que proposez-vous pour...

*(La Présidente retire la parole à l'oratrice)*

1-0079-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – I want to promote a model in the European Union that is based on intergenerational fairness, and one of the pillars of how we ensure cohesion in our society is to have harmony between the different generations.

This is one of the foundations on which I plan to build the intergenerational fairness strategy. We recognise that, where there are low perceptions of intergenerational fairness, that translates into disillusionment, discontent and frustration, which also threatens our values in the European Union, our democratic values no less.

So my work will be focussed on delivering an intergenerational fairness strategy that encourages generations to work together, that ensures equal opportunity for people in different generations, that promotes active and empowered citizens, and that means we have to work across a number of policies to deliver on the aspirations of our citizens – be it in housing, be it in employment, be it in other areas.

That is how we will take work forward and our values will always be what guides our work.

1-0080-0000

**Nicola Zingaretti (S&D).** – Signor Commissario candidato, i settori creativi e culturali significano oltre 7 milioni di lavoratori e più di 350 miliardi di euro di valore, coesione sociale, ma anche libertà, autonomia e capacità di critica nelle nostre democrazie.

Il settore audiovisivo sta vivendo una totale trasformazione. Il digitale sposta il contenuto dalle televisioni ai cinema ed entra nelle tasche di miliardi di esseri umani, a volte con l'intelligenza artificiale che definisce preferenze e tendenze. Non ci sono più solo le storie, ma modelli e algoritmi per creare profitto.

Come crede si possa garantire l'aspetto culturale del settore audiovisivo e la libertà di creazione? E come pensa o pensa si possano introdurre dei requisiti di etichettatura per i contenuti media creati interamente dagli strumenti dell'intelligenza artificiale a tutela delle nostre libertà?

1-0081-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – I believe we have to embrace change to mitigate its risks, but at the same time take the opportunity that this brings.

You mentioned the number of people that are working in this sector. I believe that these provide immense contributions to our economies, but their potential is still untapped. We have already a basis in protecting and supporting the cultural and creative sector industries and the digital world. I mentioned before the Digital Services Act, the Digital Markets Act, we have the copyright framework and the AI framework, which all include specific provisions, especially in the AI Act, that make it clear that AI content must be labelled, that when it is used, the creators, the cultural professionals must be adequately reimbursed and with specific regulations on how the models are being trained using creative content.

Now we have to work on a strategy in the AI sector, which is deliberate and targeting these sectors. It's a strategy that must support these sectors in the digital world, must support these sectors to make the adaptations needed to be able to exploit the potential that AI gives them, that promotes ethical and fair use of AI, where content is labelled as generated by AI, where content is clearly marked 'generated by AI', and where we encourage collaboration between the tech industry and the cultural and creative sector industries to make sure that we unleash their potential in our economies.

1-0082-0000

**Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski (PPE).** – Sport ma ogromny potencjał w zakresie promowania wartości Unii Europejskiej. Mamy jednak bardzo liczne przykłady skandali związanych z ustawianiem meczy. One podważają uczciwość sportu, zagrażają zasadom fair play, ale także podważają zaufanie publiczne. Te nielegalne działania nie tylko szkodzą reputacji zaangażowanych sportowców, ale także stanowią poważne zagrożenie dla wartości, o których mówiłem wcześniej.

Obecnie istnieje tylko jeden instrument prawa międzynarodowego, który daje szansę powalczyć z tymi manipulacjami. Jest to konwencja z Macolin. Jednak przystąpienie Unii Europejskiej blokowane jest od 9 lat przez jedno państwo, przez Maltę. Chciałem Pana zapytać jako reprezentanta tego państwa, co Pan uczyni, aby, krótko mówiąc, ta konwencja miała szansę wejść w życie.

1-0083-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – Before I answer, I want to make it clear that I am here as designated Commissioner responsible for intergenerational fairness, youth, culture and sport, and I'm not representing any particular Member State. I am representing the interests of all Union citizens.

Now, integrity and fairness in sports are two key values that are absolutely crucial. If you look at Article 165 of our Treaty, which specifically refers to sport, these are two words, two key words that are mentioned in this article. They are values that I hold very dear. The Macolin Convention is precisely about integrity and fairness in sport. Through it there's an encouragement for public bodies, for sports organisations, as well as for commercial organisations, to work together to prevent, detect and sanction the manipulation of sports competition. And it's an international instrument in which the Commission has had a huge role in shaping.

Now, the Commission has also presented a proposal to the Council to sign and ratify this convention on behalf of the Union and its Member States, and so far, with just one exception, these decisions have been taken by consensus, by unanimity in Council. What I will tell you is you have my word, you have my commitment that I will work to install dialogue with the Member States. I will work with the future Presidency, especially, so that even when the conditions are right, this is again put on the Council's agenda with a view to it being unblocked. The final decision, however, rests with the Member States in Council.



1-0084-0000

**Benedetta Scuderi (Verts/ALE).** – Creative Europe is the only dedicated fund supporting the cultural and creative sector. As you know, some actors, some sectors have expressed concern about the direction of the media sub-programme, which currently seems to favour only a certain focus and certain actors to the detriment of a more culture-oriented approach.

There are concerns that this could compromise the vitality and diversity, for example, of audiovisual production in Europe.

What is your vision for the programme, and what political orientation do you wish to give to the programme, particularly given its upcoming review? Will we see, as Parliament has already called for, a reinforcement of Creative Europe in the coming years, while preserving its emphasis on the cultural sector and reinforcing freedom of artistic and creative expression? And very importantly, how are you planning to fund it?

1-0085-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – Creative Europe has been a very strong ally to the cultural and creative sector industries in Europe. It has a relatively modest budget – we’re speaking about 2.44 billion here, through which we have helped the cultural and creative sectors to develop, safeguard and promote our cultural heritage and linguistic diversity and to boost their competitiveness in our economies. It is a programme that has seen us also cooperate with countries beyond our Union, beyond Member States, to direct support to the cultural and creative sector industries for cross-border activities, supporting audiovisual production, supporting the book-publishing industries, as well as supporting the leveraging of private investments towards the cultural and creative sector industries. These have all been crucial. And through this programme, we have also supported initiatives of artistic excellence, of inclusion, of diversity, with the European Capital of Culture being the most-known example of such.

Now, as you mentioned, there is the review of the current programmes that is ongoing, which will feed into the proposals in the next MFF – the proposals which will come in 2026. I will work with the designate-Vice-President, as well as with the designate-Commissioner responsible for budget, to ensure that we have a strong budget that gives us the means to deliver on our objectives in this sector. Our objectives are very clear. We want more competitiveness and more innovative cultural and creative sector industries, and we want to improve the working conditions of our artists. We will deliver on those by working together as one college with the co-legislators.

1-0086-0000

**Marlena Małag (ECR).** – W tytule Pana portfolio znalazła się solidarność międzypokoleniowa. W odpowiedzi na pytania do komisji EMPL częściowo odniósł się Pan do tej kwestii, ale ja chciałabym zwrócić uwagę przede wszystkim na osoby starsze. Negatywne trendy demograficzne to fakt.

Cieszę się, że Pan będzie angażował osoby młode, ale jednocześnie chciałabym zapytać, jak zamierza Pan wspierać osoby starsze. Jak przeciwdziałać samotności w starości czy dyskryminacji osób starszych w miejscu pracy? Dziś widzimy w wielu sektorach, że są one zwalniane mimo statusu chronionego, a możliwość znalezienia nowego miejsca pracy czy przekwalifikowania jest bardzo ograniczona. Dlatego pytam, jak konkretnie zamierza Pan wspierać „srebrną” gospodarkę czy mentoring w miejscu pracy.

1-0087-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – The way I view intergenerational fairness is about ensuring that everyone in our society has a voice. To me, it’s quite clear that intergenerational

fairness rests on three pillars, I mentioned that before: harmony between the different generations, so not pitting generations against each other, not blaming generations for different challenges that we find ourselves in; having equal opportunities for people in different generations; and having active, empowered citizens that trust public bodies. The concept of intergenerational fairness – fairness between generations – is one that is in our Treaties, and it is one that I look forward to take work in very seriously.

Now, this is also about our democratic values, as I mentioned before. Low perceptions of intergenerational fairness create frustrations in our society. They cause disconnect and disillusionment, which allow fertile ground for ideas that are not aligned to our values.

But it is also about our demography. We have ageing populations, greater longevity and lower fertility rates in the Union, which in itself, the fact that we have greater longevity, is a testament to our quality of life. But we also have to adapt our policies, for example, to the fact that 1 in 2 young people that are being born today will live to 100 years of age – the way we look at education, the way we look at employment policies, the way we look at housing policies as well as climate change. So this is really something that affects horizontally. It will need efforts across different policy areas. We will develop a strategy with targeted actions, targeted actions that we will follow up on, and I will use foresight to ensure that we have evidence-based policies and evidence-based actions that guide us in our work.

1-0088-0000

**Hristo Petrov (Renew).** – Being tasked with creating continuity between child and youth participation as part of implementing the EU strategy on the rights of the child, for children living in institutions, participation is especially difficult. They are often isolated, with little opportunity for self-expression. Deinstitutionalisation is crucial, especially for ones with fewer opportunities and disabilities to be fully included in society, and ultimately in democratic life.

Do you plan to address deinstitutionalisation as part of child participation? What measures will you introduce in the implementation of the EU strategy on the right of the child to improve participation for children with fewer opportunities and children with disabilities?

1-0089-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – Children are not the future. Children are the now. Children are the present, and we must make sure that no child, no child is left behind.

When it comes to children in institutional facilities, I know that there have been efforts coordinated also in this mandate to focus on deinstitutionalisation, using EU funds to help in this process. But in the children's rights strategy, we can go a step further.

We have a children's participation platform through which we listen to the views of children to take their views into account. And I would be very keen to have the views of children coming from all backgrounds, all walks of life to enrich our work, to inspire our work, and to ensure that we give children a future where they have the right to education, the right to care, and the right to equal opportunities.

1-0090-0000

**Marc Jongen (ESN).** – Artikel 3 des Vertrags über die Europäische Union verlangt, das kulturelle Erbe Europas zu schützen. Wirft man einen Blick auf die konkrete Kulturförderung der EU, dann tut sich jedoch ein linksideologischer Abgrund auf.

Im Rahmen der Theaterförderung *Perform Europe* beispielsweise sollen 42 inklusive, diverse und grüne Partnerprojekte gefördert werden, darunter Aufführungen wie *Queer Deities in Migration*, Körperlandschaften, eine öko-feministische Perspektive, oder ein Theaterfestival mit einem Stück namens *Caliban and the Witch*, das, ich zitiere, „ein Reich der Unterwerfung weißer Europäer“ auf der Bühne zelebriert. *Perform Europe* hat insgesamt ein Budget von 2,1 Millionen Euro, und es gibt viele andere solcher Beispiele.

Meine Frage: Dienen Gender-Ideologie und politischer Aktivismus gegen weiße Menschen aus Ihrer Sicht dem Ziel, das kulturelle Erbe Europas zu schützen? Und, wenn nein, werden Sie gegen einen solchen ideologischen und missbräuchlichen Einsatz von Steuer...

*(Die Präsidentin entzieht dem Redner das Wort.)*

1-0091-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – The support of culture, cultural heritage and diversity is one of the pillars on which we will build the cultural compass. When we speak about cultural diversity and our values, these are mainstreamed into all our actions. If you look at Creative Europe, we have a programme that really promotes our values and priorities. These are values and priorities through which our culture professionals need to promote, as a result, to be able to access this funding, thereby making them more visible.

These are values that for us are very important. We speak about equality and that includes age equality, that includes gender equality, that includes equality between different people, and that is not something that in this Union we can compromise on.

1-0092-0000

**Carolina Morace (The Left)**. – Immagino, Commissario designato, che Lei conosca l'enorme differenza di trattamento che riguarda vari livelli tra lo sport professionistico praticato dagli uomini e lo sport professionistico invece praticato dalle donne.

Due domande. Che misure intende prendere per invitare le federazioni sportive a equiparare i montepremi delle competizioni internazionali tra uomini e donne?

La seconda: come intende collaborare con le parti interessate per promuovere investimenti mirati a contrastare i criteri discriminatori che continuano a limitare le opportunità e la crescita professionale delle atlete rispetto ai colleghi maschi, anche per quanto riguarda la formazione e la vita post-agonistica?

1-0093-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Look, one of the foundations of our sport model and the values-based sport model that we will promote is the autonomy of sports organisations to govern their sport independently. That does not mean that we cannot have this opportunity to be assertive with them, to send a strong signal of what our expectations are in various areas, because a values-based European sport model is one that stands up for human and social rights, and that is for us a cornerstone of what this should be.

So we will have to take this opportunity to work together to make it absolutely clear that when it comes to big sporting events, when it comes to sporting competitions, equality is something that is an absolute priority.

And I have already been very clear that this autonomy is not unconditional. They must respect EU law and they must respect good governance principles.

We will make this absolutely clear when we engage with sporting federations, when we engage with sporting movements, as well as when we are engaged in sporting diplomacy with third countries, with the sporting movement outside our Union, because these are values that for us are very important, and we will continue to promote and defend them.

1-0094-0000

**Nela Riehl**, *Chair of the CULT Committee*. – We will now start the third round of questions, and I will give the floor to the invited committee, starting with the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, Jagna Marczułajtis-Walczak.

1-0095-0000

**Jagna Marczułajtis-Walczak**, *Vice-Chair of the EMPL Committee*. – Thank you, Chair, for the floor. Mr Commissioner-designate, the question already has been asked in writing by our committee and during this hearing.

However, the EMPL Committee is not fully satisfied with the detail of your answers.

Could you please elaborate further and with clearer and concrete commitments and examples on the following: what actions and measures will you propose to ensure the social inclusion of all generations and their full participation in society and the economy?

What legislative initiatives do you envisage with regard to youth and intergenerational fairness?

How are you going to cooperate with Executive-Vice-President-designate Mînzatu in this context? Thank you.

1-0096-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Intergenerational fairness is about ensuring that everyone has a voice in our society. It's about ensuring that we listen to everyone and act upon their views, that we leave no one behind in whatever we do, whilst at the same time future-proofing our legislation. Now this requires a whole-of-Commission approach because it affects our society in its entirety. It requires coordination and collaboration with all the members of the future College, and I look forward to work with each and every one of them to promote inclusion and fairness in all actions that we take.

I have spoken already to the designate Vice-President responsible for people and skills, and I will be at her side, working hand in hand with her to deliver in these areas, whether it's on the action plan, on the implementation of the pillar on social rights, or the anti-poverty strategy, which are going to be absolutely key in promoting inclusion and fairness. But this extends also to other members of College, because when we speak about intergenerational fairness, this touches upon housing issues, it touches upon climate change, where we need to ensure that we have a just transition, as well as a transition that that enables us to be greener. It touches upon employment policies. It touches upon public finances.

These are all areas that that will be impacted by our work on intergenerational fairness. So we will have a strategy that will have targeted actions, and where we will use foresight, because this is a tool

that helps us anticipate future disruptions and future opportunities where we can be proactive rather than reactive in shaping the future that we want.

1-0097-0000

**Javier Zarzalejos**, *Chair of the LIBE Committee*. – Thank you, Chair. Mr Micallef, I understand that you're in favour of limiting the time children spend online. But on top of this measure, would you give us more concrete examples of preventive measures against specifically cyberbullying? My second question would be about your social media inquiry – the inquiry you intend to conduct. Could you give us some details about that? Who will design that? Who will assess the results? It would be about content or about users? And my third point would be, as in your written replies, you referred to the cooperation with the European Parliament in the context of the EU Children's Participation Platform, how do you concretely see such a cooperation with this Parliament?

1-0098-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – I will start with your last question on the cooperation with this Parliament.

When it comes to children, especially in the child's participation platform, I am ready to work with this committee, but with other members of different committees to ensure that we have a structured approach in the way that we tackle children's rights.

In the previous mandate, I am aware that there was an intergroup on children's rights that was extremely constructive with suggestions, with ideas also influencing legislation. The most notable example that comes to mind here is the Digital Services Act, where it's a result of the work of this Parliament that we have specific provisions that safeguard children in the Digital Services Act – I mentioned them before: provisions on age-gating, on age-appropriate content, on parental controls, on cyberbullying that were born in this Parliament. So there is a lot of value added that this Parliament can bring in our work on this, and I would be very keen to take this forward in this mandate as well.

When it comes to cyberbullying, we will develop a strategy that will be based and will be built on the current framework that we have, the robust framework that is in this legislation where we will protect our children online through best practices that are currently being implemented in Member States which we will roll out at Union level, where we will promote the trusted flagger scheme in the DSA; where we will build on, for example, the digital identity wallet that will come into effect in 2026. And on this basis, we will ensure that we have a strategy that is coherent, holistic, and that protects our children online.

1-0099-0000

**Mario Mantovani**, *vicepresidente della commissione JURI*. – Signor Micallef, ha già forse sfiorato l'argomento, ma volevo un approfondimento. L'idea principale alla base della strategia dell'Unione sui diritti dei minori è quella di integrare i diritti nella legislazione dell'Unione.

La Commissione giuridica e il Parlamento nella relazione del 2022 intitolata "Legiferare meglio: unire le forze per produrre leggi migliori" esortano questa integrazione, prevedono una valutazione di impatto delle proposte. Il Parlamento ha richiesto l'introduzione di un test sui diritti dei minori e nel quadro del pacchetto degli strumenti delle valutazioni di impatto.

Lei è favorevole a includere questo test sui diritti dei minori proprio negli strumenti delle valutazioni di impatto della Commissione?

1-0100-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Look, in my preparation for this hearing, when I was studying and looking at our children’s rights strategy, there was a story that was recounted to me that really struck a chord, struck a nerve.

As part of the Children’s Participation Platform, there was a group of children that was given an explanation of what this strategy meant for children, and there was this boy from Cyprus who, after hearing this presentation, told the officials that were delivering it, ‘This is well said, but I prefer well done.’

I believe that in this mandate, our efforts need to focus on the implementation of the children’s rights strategy and on the fine-tuning and the adjustments that’s necessary to it.

Through the strategy, we have already a platform for coordination within the Commission, a coordination that brings together all parts of the Commission, so we ensure a child-friendly approach by default in everything that we do. Nonetheless, if there are ideas such as the ones that you have mentioned, this is why there is this engagement and we will be more than happy to consider them and assess their feasibility, also to include them in the way that we do policymaking inside the Commission.

1-0101-0000

**Nela Riehl**, *Chair of the CULT Committee*. – Now we will start a final round of questions, and I will give the floor to the political groups in reverse order, starting with the ESN Group.

1-0102-0000

**Marc Jongen (ESN)**. – Herr Micallef! Sie haben die *Trusted Flagger* und auch den *Digital Services Act* lobend erwähnt. Im Oktober wurde in Deutschland der erste sogenannte *Trusted Flagger* ernannt. Laut dem Präsidenten der Bundesnetzagentur, Klaus Müller von den Grünen, sollen diese *Trusted Flagger* nun sehr schnell und ohne bürokratische Hürden die Löschung aller Social-Media-Beiträge anordnen, die aus Sicht der Bundesregierung unter Gummibegriffe wie Hassrede oder Fake News fallen.

Über die Grenzen der Meinungsfreiheit entscheiden nun nicht mehr unabhängige Gerichte, sondern beispielsweise eine private Meldestelle namens REspect!, die von einem an der Al-Azhar-Universität in Kairo ausgebildeten Islamgelehrten geleitet wird. Diese Maßnahmen werden mit der von der EU geförderten ... mit dem *Digital Services Act* begründet.

Wie stehen Sie dazu, dass ... Nein, Sie haben in Ihrer Antwort auf die Fragen des Ausschusses zu Recht darauf hingewiesen, dass die Redefreiheit ein wichtiges und schützenswertes Grundrecht ist. Wie stehen Sie jetzt dazu, dass dieses Grundrecht offensichtlich ...

*(Die Präsidentin entzieht dem Redner das Wort.)*

1-0103-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – I don’t know if there was a question there, but what I will tell you is that civil society has a huge role to play in our communities in the way that we work inside the Union. We will always support civil society in their work because they enrich our societies and provide very valuable contributions.

In the context of the Digital Services Act, there are, and I know that there are, a great many organisations that have built expertise on cyberbullying issues, that have knowledge on how to

detect cyberbullying cases, and that knowledge could be very useful to be able to report and for the victims to be able to seek advice.

I will definitely have an open-door approach to work with civil society, and this is something that I will do in this part of my portfolio as well as in other areas.

1-0104-0000

**Νίκος Παππάς (The Left).** – Κύριε Micallef, το Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο με ψήφισμά του κατά την προηγούμενη κοινοβουλευτική περίοδο έχει ψηφίσει την πρόταση να πηγαίνει το 2% του ευρωπαϊκού προϋπολογισμού στον πολιτισμό. Αναμένεται όμως ότι η χρηματοδότηση στο επόμενο πολυετές δημοσιονομικό πλαίσιο θα μειωθεί δραστικά, ιδίως τα χρηματοδοτικά προγράμματα που είναι στη δικαιοδοσία του χαρτοφυλακίου σας. Πώς σκοπεύετε λοιπόν να αντισταθείτε στις μειώσεις αυτές; Πώς θα αξιοποιήσετε το πρόγραμμα Erasmus+; Σε ποιες πρωτοβουλίες θα πρέπει να επικεντρωθεί περισσότερο το πρόγραμμα αυτό;

1-0105-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – When we speak about Erasmus+, this is one of the flagship and most-known programmes in our Union. In fact, probably whoever is here in this room right now has either participated in this programme or knows someone who has participated in Erasmus.

Now the Commission's commitment is clear, it's in the political guidelines, but it's also something that I have assurance of from my discussions with the designate-Vice-President for people and skills, as well as with the designate-Commissioner responsible for budget, that we will strengthen Erasmus+.

This is a programme that is envied by global partners. And we need to now look at how we can develop it to include, for example, vocational education in this, which is something that we look forward to.

But there is also the youth strands of Erasmus+ which I will be responsible for, and the sport strands. Obviously I will fight for stronger budgets in these areas. This is a discussion that will come next year when we have the proposals on the next MFF – proposals, which will also depend on the support of the co-legislators, so there is a role for Council and for Parliament in this discussion, and I hope to be able to count on this committee's support so that we reach our goals together in this area.

1-0106-0000

**Erik Marquardt (Verts/ALE).** – Mr Micallef, as streaming has become the primary way audiences access music, artists in Europe frequently report challenges around fair and inclusive compensation or part-revenue structures and limited control over how their works are promoted and monetised. The Copyright Directive aimed to address some of these issues by requiring transparency on how works are used and remunerated, yet implementation has varied significantly across Member States, leaving many artists unable to verify or understand the breakdown of their earnings from platforms.

Commissioner-designate, given these ongoing challenges, what specific measures would you propose to ensure a fair, inclusive, diverse and sustainable streaming ecosystem that truly supports the livelihoods of European artists while ensuring transparency from streaming platforms and algorithms? Thank you.

1-0107-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Look, we need robust frameworks that support our artists; robust frameworks that ensure that they are fairly compensated. The regulations and the provisions that we have in the Copyright Directive and the Digital Services Act and the AI Act are already a good basis. When it comes to implementation, this is an area where we will focus a lot of our efforts and our energy. Without effective implementation, our rules will remain on paper. As a Commission we are duty-bound as guardians of the Treaty, but also to engage with stakeholders, but also with Member States. Where there are risks, where there are gaps in implementation, we will do so in a structured way. We will engage, but at some point that engagement is not enough, so we have to use the tools at our disposal to be able to enforce our legislative framework and, if need be, we will not be afraid to use them. These are there and we will do so.

But there is also an ongoing assessment of the way the Digital Services Act and the copyright framework are interacting together. This assessment will give us the basis to determine if there are any other actions that will be needed in the periods to come.

1-0108-0000

**Laurence Farreng (Renew)**. – Monsieur le Commissaire désigné, la France, l'Italie, l'Espagne et l'Allemagne ont mis en place un pass culture pour les jeunes, ce qui permet un accès plus simple aux biens culturels et aux activités culturelles.

Je vous avoue que je suis un peu frustrée de ne pas avoir entendu de grande mesure pour la culture jusqu'à présent. Je voulais donc savoir quelle était votre vision pour permettre, justement, de rendre la culture plus accessible aux jeunes, pour les mettre en relation avec leur patrimoine, avec leurs musées, avec des activités, et pour créer une Europe de la culture par la mobilité.

1-0109-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Look, in our political guidelines, it is very clear that we want to make culture and our rich and diverse cultural tapestry more accessible to young people, building on DiscoverEU.

So DiscoverEU is a tool in our Erasmus programme that I believe has been absolutely crucial in this sense. Through it, we have seen 1.4 million young people who have applied to visit Europe and visit our cultural heritage by taking a period of 30 days, and we have been able to accommodate 319,000 youths to be able to have this experience. Now, this is important because it gives youth the chance to learn about Europe and its cultural heritage. It gives them the opportunity to connect with their peers, to explore their European identity, as well as to develop their personal skills.

And this is one of the concrete ways in which we can support young people in the next cycle of Union programmes, where we will have to work together with with the designate-Vice-President responsible for skills, as well as with the designate-Commissioner for budget, to ensure that we have adequate financing in Erasmus, but also in other areas of priority. Notably in the cultural sphere, we will need to see what we want to finance, how we will make our culture and creative sector industries more competitive, but also how to improve the working conditions of artists and then decide how we want to finance it.

But it is very clear in my mind that if we want to have an effective cultural compass, an impactful cultural compass, it has to be accompanied with adequate means, as well as with monitoring tools, to ensure that that we implemented effectively.



1-0110-0000

**Ивайло Вълчев (ЕСР).** – Г-н Микалеф, програмата "Творческа Европа" играе важна роля в подкрепата на културните и творческите фондове и творческите сектори в Европейския съюз. Затова особено важно е да се уверим, че по-малко развитите региони няма да останат в сянка и ще получават адекватна подкрепа за своите културни инициативи.

Също така за нас е важно да бъдем абсолютно сигурни, че творците ще имат свободата да изразяват своите идеи, без да бъдат ограничавани от бюрократични пречки, от икономически или идеологически натиск.

Г-н Микалеф, как ще ни уверите, че всички общности ще имат равен достъп до финансиране и възможности за развитие на своите творчески индустрии, така че да се насърчава разнообразието и иновациите във всички държави членки? И каква роля ще играе Вашето евентуално лидерство в .....

*(Председателят отнема думата на оратора)*

1-0111-0000

**Glenn Micallef, Commissioner-designate.** – We have a rich and diverse tapestry of cultural identities in the European Union. This requires that we support Member States in ensuring that their cultural sectors flourish, but as well as at the same time coordinating their efforts with strategic guidance.

This coordination role is one which is very important. We have right now a fragmented approach. There are multiple policies and multiple funding programmes in our Union that are tackling culture from different angles. So we really need to have something overarching, something that guides our cultural interventions in both funds and programs, as well as in our legislative work.

When it comes to regions, this to me is one of our priorities to provide strategic support and strategic action through which our regions can have access to culture, and this is an area where we will, first of all, have a consultation with our cultural and creative sectors in rural regions to understand the needs and concerns. And then also have events or conferences where we share our findings and discuss how we best tackle the issue of culture and regions.

1-0112-0000

**Catherine Griset (PFE).** – Dans vos réponses aux questions écrites de notre commission de la culture et de l'éducation, vous précisez que vous interviendrez auprès de vos collègues commissaires compétents en matière de technologies numériques. Je souhaiterais savoir si vous les mettrez en garde contre l'inflation législative qui prévaut dans ce domaine.

En effet, le flot continu de réglementation européenne incite désormais les géants de la «tech» à reporter la mise en service de leurs produits en Europe. C'est le cas, par exemple, du nouveau ChatGPT Voice, capable de parler comme un humain, dont Open AI a décalé la sortie dans l'Union européenne. Avant cela, Meta et Apple ont également retardé le lancement de leur IA générative en Europe, redoutant des régulations trop strictes.

Ma question sera donc la suivante: face au risque de décrochage de l'Europe, plutôt que de renforcer encore la pression réglementaire sur les technologies numériques, êtes-vous prêt à encourager une pause réglementaire pour que nos entreprises puissent se développer?

1-0113-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – We have, ahead of us, opportunities that are brought about by the digital transformation. Opportunities that bring with them the need to significantly transform these sectors, but also to manage the risks that they bring with them.

Change is something that can be feared, but it is something that we have to embrace, because we cannot become outdated. So I think the most important thing is that we find a balance, that we protect our competitiveness, that we protect our cultural-creative sectors in a way that is ethical and that is fair, that they are reimbursed for their content and that their content is marked online.

This is work that we have already made significant steps on in this mandate, so now it's something that we have to build on in the next mandate to ensure that we protect these sectors in the digital age.

1-0114-0000

**Emma Rafowicz (S&D)**. – Madame la Présidente, Monsieur le Commissaire désigné, avant de poser ma question sur le programme «Europe créative», permettez-moi tout de même d'exprimer ici ma sidération et mon indignation, après les propos tenus par l'extrême droite au sujet de la cérémonie d'ouverture des Jeux olympiques et paralympiques de Paris, ainsi que d'une supposée idéologie LGBT. Je suis pour ma part très fière que cette cérémonie ait incarné nos valeurs universelles et notre diversité culturelle. Ce sont les valeurs de Paris, mais aussi de l'Europe. L'homophobie, la transphobie, le racisme et le sexisme n'ont pas leur place dans le sport ni dans la culture, pas plus que dans notre hémicycle. Je vous remercie, Monsieur, pour votre clarté.

J'en viens maintenant au programme «Europe créative». Alors que son volet Média est de plus en plus élargi et détourné dans son périmètre, au profit des acteurs comme l'IA, dans une logique de profit, seriez-vous favorable au retour de l'unité Média au sein de la DG EAC plutôt que de la DG Connect, comme c'était le cas il y a dix ans? Enfin, vous avez dit vouloir travailler avec nous. Comment voulez-vous faire cela?

1-0115-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – The administrative organisation is not something that is within my prerogative. It's not within my control. What I will tell you is that in this current Commission, all our portfolios are, in some way, shape or form, interlinked. There is not one policy area that is not in some way linked to another. If you take, for example, youth, this is linked to education. It's linked to mental health. It's linked to equality. It's linked to many areas. If you take intergenerational fairness, I have already had the opportunity to mention how I see the link between this strategy and the work we do on environment, on housing, on public finances, on employment. So it's absolutely crucial that we work as one, that we work in a coordinated way, that we collaborate together, that we also work as a team with Parliament, with stakeholders, with Member States, and that together we make a Team Europe that will ensure that we deliver on our common objectives of bettering and improving the quality of life of our citizens.

1-0116-0000

**Sabine Verheyen (PPE)**. – In jedem der *mission letter* steht drin: „We will strive to make Europe faster and simpler“. Wir haben im Kulturausschuss Implementierungsberichte zu den Programmen Erasmus+ mit dem Bereich *Youth, Sport, Discover EU*, aber auch *Education*, dem *Creative-Europe*-Programm mit dem *Cultural Strand* und dem Solidaritätskorps verfasst.

Überall wurde gleichermaßen festgestellt, dass für die bessere Inklusion in diese Programme die bürokratischen Hürden dringend abgebaut werden müssen. Darüber hinaus ist oftmals auch nicht

bekannt, dass auch aus anderen Programmen wie dem RRF, dem ERDF und anderen Programmen die Investitionen in den Kultur- und Kreativsektor auch gefördert werden können, der Zugang zu diesen Programmen aber aufgrund der Komplexität und der bürokratischen Hürden gerade für kleine kulturschaffende Organisationen oftmals ...

*(Die Präsidentin entzieht der Rednerin das Wort.)*

1-0117-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Simplification continues to be one of our priorities for the next period. I remember when I was a student at university we had this Youth in Action initiative that we worked on. Apart from it being a great experience, I remember a couple of nights with my friends in the students' house printing stacks this big of paper and queuing outside the national agency's office to submit the application.

Now, to me, this is exactly the reason why we must invest in simplification of our programmes, because we want people to focus on the quality as well as on the delivery of the projects, while at the same time ensuring that we have a robust regulatory framework. So it's about finding this balance. We have to find this balance also in Erasmus, but in other programmes as well. We have to promote culture in all policy areas because it can really contribute to our regional policy; it can contribute to our social priorities; it can contribute to our education efforts; and the cultural compass is how we will do it. The cultural compass will be the general reference framework that I will use to work with my colleagues in the future College to ensure that we reach our shared objectives in the cultural sphere.

1-0118-0000

**Nela Riehl**, *Chair of the CULT Committee*. – Thank you very much, Mr Micallef. You now have the floor for five minutes for your concluding remarks.

1-0119-0000

**Glenn Micallef**, *Commissioner-designate*. – Honourable Chair, honourable Members, thank you for this opportunity for open discussion and dialogue today. This is European democracy at its best. I have come to deepen my understanding about your views for the coming mandate, about our vision for the future of the European Union. I trust that I have answered all your questions with clarity, openness and commitment – clarity, openness and commitment I also intend to bring to the role of Commissioner for intergenerational fairness, youth, culture and sport. And the European values of diversity, fairness, solidarity and democracy will guide my action.

Major challenges stand before us: major challenges that require bold responses – bold European responses. Conflict, inequality and climate change are now all part of our political reality and already have a direct impact on our lives. Our approach to intergenerational fairness, youth, culture and sport is central to Europe's responses to these challenges. The European Parliament has been a great ally to the EU's cultural policies, including Creative Europe programme and our support to Ukrainian cultural professionals. You have been a staunch supporter of young people, defending Erasmus+ and promoting their inclusion in democratic decision-making, and you have championed our European sport model.

If confirmed, I will work alongside you to further strengthen the cooperation between this House and the European Commission and to defend the interests of current and future generations. To achieve this I will establish regular communication with the members of relevant parliamentary committees, and in line with the political guidelines, I will provide an annual report on my progress

in delivering on the promises which I have made to you today. Together, our institutions will ensure that Europe offers current and future generations the same opportunities to thrive and reach their ambitions. Together, we can ensure that young people's voices are not only heard, but listened to and acted upon. And together, we can further cultivate the power of culture and activate the power of sport.

Art, music, literature, cinema and sport – amateur or professional – are central to Europe's unique cultural heritage. They hold us together and foster a shared sense of belonging, a shared sense of destiny as Europeans. If confirmed, I will endeavour to maximise the EU's impact in these areas, to bring added value to all Europeans in their daily lives in every corner of our Union.

Honourable Members, thank you again for today's discussions and for the dialogue. I hope I have earned your trust to enable me to take forward the Commission's work in the fields of intergenerational fairness, youth, culture and sport. It would be a great honour and a privilege to work with you in the years to come. Thank you.

*(Applause)*

1-0120-0000

**Nela Riehl**, *Chair of the CULT Committee*. – Thank you very much, Mr Micallef, and thank you all dear members and dear chairs and vice-chairs of the invited committees. I know three hours is quite a long time, but we had quite a fruitful discussion. And thank you also to the staff that actually made this meeting or this hearing possible. We will proceed now – if I may ask you just to say quiet for one last minute – to the evaluation of the Commissioner-designate, and I will ask the coordinators to meet in camera without undue delay. So thank you once again for your active participation. Have a nice evening.

1-0121-0000

*(The hearing closed at 17:32)*